

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report advises that the Council' Governance Group has reviewed the action plan for 2014/15 and updated the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2014/15.
- 1.2. The Governance Group has prepared an action plan for 2015/2016.
- 1.3. The review allows the Council to include a statement of governance and internal control in the Annual Accounts for 2104/15.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit Committee note the content of the report;
- 2.2 The Audit Committee provide comment on the content of the revised Code of Corporate Governance for 2014/15
- 2.3 The Audit Committee provide comment on the content of the Action Plan for 2015/16
- 2.4 The Audit Committee provide comment on the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2014/15

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report advises that the Council's Governance Group has reviewed the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2014/15. The Governance Group has prepared an action plan for 2015/2016. The review allows the Council to include a statement of governance and internal control in the Annual Accounts for 2104/15.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit Committee note the content of the report;
- 2.2 The Audit Committee provide comment on the content of the revised Code of Corporate Governance for 2014/15
- 2.3 The Audit Committee provide comment on the content of the Action Plan for 2015/16
- 2.4 The Audit Committee provide comment on the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2014/15

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 CIPFA and SOLACE published a revised Framework for 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' in 2007. The Framework was intended to define the principles that should underpin the governance of local authorities and provides a structure to assist authorities with their own approach to governance. The Framework took the six core principles, from the 'Good Governance Standard for Public Services' (2004), and adapted these principles for local government, identifying eighteen supporting principles.
- 3.2 The Council's Governance Group, chaired by the Executive Director of Customer Services as Monitoring Officer, has responsibility for the preparation of the Code of Corporate Governance along with an Action Plan which identifies areas within the Council where work to improve the governance arrangements within the Council is being undertaken or is necessary.

The Governance Group is of the view that the actions on the action plan for 14/15 (appendix 1) have been completed.

The Governance Group includes:

- Head of Strategic Finance (s95 Officer);
- Head of Improvement & HR;
- Head of Governance and Law;
- Governance and Risk Manager;
- Internal Audit Manager.

3.3 The six core principles contained in the local code are;

Focussing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

Members & Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the value of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

Developing the capacity and capabilities of members and officers to be effective

Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

3.4 The review of the effectiveness of the system of governance and internal control is informed by the:

- Work of Officers within the Council;
- Work of External and Internal Audit;
- Statements of Governance or Internal Control provided by external bodies;
- External review and inspection reports; and
- Recommendations from the Audit Committee
- Recommendations from the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee.

3.5 It is requested that the Audit Committee provide comment on the revised code of Corporate Governance for 2014/15 (appendix 2), the action plan 15/16 (appendix 3) and the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2014/15 (appendix 4).

4. CONCLUSION

This review of the content of the local code of corporate governance gives assurance about the robustness of the Council's governance arrangements.

5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY	In line with SORP and recommended practice
FINANCIAL	None
HR	None
LEGAL	Monitoring Officer statutory role, remit includes governance
EQUALITIES	None
RISKS	None
CUSTOMER SERVICE	None

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Action plan for 14/15

Appendix 2 - Revised code of corporate governance

Appendix 3 - Action plan for 15/16

Appendix 4 - Draft statement of governance and internal control 14/15