



AGENDA ITEM: 7

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:
26 March 2013**

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Managing Director: People and Places

**Contact for further information: Ms J Ashcroft (Extn. 2606)
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SUBJECT: LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE 2013

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the results of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Governance.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Local Code of Governance for 2013/14, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In order to comply with best practice for producing the Annual Governance Statement, as set out in the CIPFA Solace publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework", it is necessary to have in place a Local Code of Governance. The Local Code identifies the Governance framework of the Authority against which it can be reviewed each year.

3.2 The terms of reference of this Committee include responsibility for approving the Council's Annual Local Code of Governance. The annual review of the Code has now been completed to ensure that it is accurate and up to date.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Since last year's review there have been a small number of changes made in various areas throughout the Council affecting governance arrangements. The main changes include:

- A number of amendments have been made to the Council’s corporate priorities, values and vision to reflect the new Business Plan refresh agreed by Council in February 2013
- References to the Data Quality Strategy have been updated to refer to the Data Quality Protocol – this change was considered by this Committee at its meeting in September 2012
- Changes to reflect developments in the way in which the Local Strategic Partnership will operate in the future

4.2 The Code has been revised to take account of all relevant factors and the tracked changes version is attached at Appendix 1.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All the activity referred to in this report is covered by existing budget provisions.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 The maintenance of a Local Code of Governance is necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Council’s statutory duty under the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Background Documents

CIPFA Solace “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework”

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no equality impact assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Code of Governance – updated March 2013