



**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:
24 October 2023**

Report of: Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources

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SUBJECT: Local Code of Governance 2023-25

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Council's updated Local Code of Governance as recommended in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) 2016 Framework, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government".

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members consider and approve the Local Code of Governance 2023-25 (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That Members agree that, to fall in line with committee meeting dates, the Code of Corporate Governance - 2025/26 be brought to this committee in May 2025.

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" (the framework), it is recommended that all local government bodies develop and have in place a Local Code of Governance (the code). The code should set out how the authority's governance arrangements work towards meeting the seven principles of good governance set out in the framework.
- 3.2 A review of the 2016 Local Code of Governance has been undertaken and updated in accordance with the framework. Additionally, the code has been benchmarked against CIPFA's "Ten Questions to Ask About Your Local Code of Governance". (Appendix 2)
- 3.3 The terms of reference of this Committee include responsibility for approving the Council's Local Code of Governance.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Since the Local Code of Governance was reviewed and approved by this committee in June 2016, the Council has gone through significant change and therefore a refresh of the code has been undertaken to reflect this.
- 4.2 In order to comply with best practice the code will be reviewed, updated as required, and presented to this committee for consideration and approval on an annual basis. The next review is scheduled for January 2025 and will be presented to this committee, at the next available committee meeting.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The financial and resource implications arising from activity identified in this report are included in existing budget provisions.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 To achieve good governance, and for the Council to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the core and sub-principles contained within the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework – 2016 edition, a local code of governance should be developed and maintained.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

1. Local Code of Governance 2023-25
2. CIPFA - Ten Questions to Ask About Your Local Code of Governance