

TITLE OF REPORT: Local Code of Governance

REPORT OF: Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks the Audit and Standards Committee to consider and approve an updated version of the Local Code of Governance, based on the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework.

Background

2. The Council has prepared a local code of governance since April 2007. The Code is essentially based on the Council's existing constitution, protocols and procedures but is updated to include changes to documents and procedures in the previous year.
3. In 2016 CIPFA reviewed its framework document to ensure that it remained fit for purpose. It issued their new Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework along with comprehensive guidance.
4. The new approach was intended to better assist local authorities, and associated organisations and vehicles through which authorities now work, in reviewing the effectiveness of their own governance arrangements by reference to best practice and using self assessment. The principles of good governance in the framework are:
 - Behaving with integrity
 - Ensuring openness and comprehensive engagement
 - Defining sustainable outcomes
 - Determining interventions
 - Developing capacity
 - Managing risks and performance
 - Implementing good practice in transparency
5. The new Framework required a full re-drafting of the Council's Local Code of Governance. The Committee on 6 March 2017 agreed that an iterative and measured approach be undertaken to develop the new Framework over the following 6-9 months so that the new Code could be fully populated and in place for March 2018.
6. Following this approach, a self assessment document was prepared which the Committee adopted on 29 January 2018 as the Local Code of Governance.

Proposal

7. As part of this year's annual review of the Local Code of Governance, the Council's senior management have been requested to make any necessary amendments or additions to the document. As a result amendments have been made to the Local Code of Governance as follows:
- Reference has been included in the column 'We demonstrate this by' to the Council's Thrive Agenda (Principles A&C) , Contracts Procedure Rules (Principles A&F) , Corporate Social Responsibility Pledge (Principles A,B&C), Trade Union Consultation Framework (Principle B), Social Care Commissioning Intentions (Principle B), Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Principle B), and Annual Information Technology Health Check (Principle F).
 - The dates on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) have been updated to reflect the current document (Principles C,D&G).
 - The references to the LGA Peer Review 2016 have been deleted given the time since the review was undertaken (Principles E&G).
 - Reference has been made to the Health and Wellbeing Board's remit to recognise the Council's responsibility for public health as this covers the wider determinants such as economic, social and environmental issues (Principle C).
8. The revised Local Code of Governance is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Audit and Standards Committee approves the updated Local Code of Governance attached at Appendix 1.