

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 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. Following extension work and consultation the Committee adopted the current format for the Local Code of Governance on 29 January 2018. The Code is reviewed on an annual basis.

Proposal

6. 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. The proposed changes are highlighted in Appendix 1. The

majority of these changes relate to the Council's performance management Framework which is currently being reviewed and will be implemented later this year.

Recommendation

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