

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

17 June 2013

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

1 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Summary

This report introduces a revised draft of the above Code. Members are requested to review the draft and subject to any amendments to recommend to Cabinet that the Code be considered and recommended to Council for adoption.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A Code was introduced following a joint CIPFA/SOLACE paper entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government". This document was produced following several enquiries and reports into Governance in the public and private sector. Since then the Council has had a code in place that is regularly reviewed.

1.1.2 The Code was designed to be on the Council's website and to provide links to the documents that demonstrated compliance with the principles identified by CIPFA/SOLACE. Following the abolition of the Use of Resources programme the Council adopted a shorter, simplified version of the Code.

1.2 Current Situation

1.2.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government has given the framework "proper practices" status to the Code. Members will be aware that the most recent Annual Governance Statement was produced using the updated framework released by CIPFA/SOLACE as an addendum to the original report in 2012. It is considered best practice to have a more detailed Local Code. Therefore, a revised draft has been produced to comply with this. **[Annex 1]**

1.2.2 Also contained within the addendum was a recommendation that as part of the annual review of the Code the Council should report against compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance. This was undertaken within the recent Annual Governance Statement that used the template in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance for reporting

1.2.3 The revised draft Code, if adopted, will match this template.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The Code will meet the framework for “proper practices” as it will match the template issued by CIPFA/SOLACE.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance does provide a framework on how the Council will meet good governance.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Having a Corporate Governance Code does assist in setting out the culture of the organisation and provides a reference to the supporting strategies and policies underlying this culture.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 No equality impact issues were identified.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Members are requested to review the draft Local Code of Corporate Governance and to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the Code be considered and recommended to Council for adoption.

Background papers:

contact: David Buckley

CIPFA/SOLACE - “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”.

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance & Transformation

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The Code is designed to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the culture of the organisation and the standards expected from them.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	The Code is an indication of expectation of standards from all groups.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.