

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

02 April 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Summary

This report asks Cabinet Members to adopt the Local Code of Corporate Governance as presented to Audit Committee on 14 February 2008. Members are asked to refer to the papers from that meeting for reference.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware that a Code of Corporate Governance has been in place for a number of years. Following the publication of a joint paper by CIPFA/SOLACE entitled of "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Guidance Note for English Authorities" a review of the Code was required to ensure compliance with the new guidance.

1.1.2 This new framework is intended "to be followed as best practice for developing and maintaining a local code of governance and making adopted practices open and explicit."

1.1.3 The necessity for the Local Code of Corporate Governance falls with the requirement under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 for authorities to have proper accounting procedures in place.

1.1.4 The Code has been updated to meet the requirements of the guidance, and at its meeting on 14 February, the Audit Committee commended the Council, via Cabinet, to adopt the Code.

1.2 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.2.1 There are no considerations arising from this Code.

1.3 Risk Assessment

1.3.1 The Code is drafted in line with the principles set out in the Guidance Note and therefore considers all of the required elements. There is a risk that external inspection may consider that elements of the Code do not meet the principles

contained within it. However, robust consideration by Members using the key questions supplied in the guidance should ensure that this does not happen.

1.4 Policy Considerations

1.4.1 The Code is a summary of all of the Governance arrangements of the authority and forms the cornerstone of the culture of this organisation.

1.5 Recommendations

1.5.1 Cabinet are asked consider the Code be and **recommend** it to Council for adoption.

Background papers:

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CIPFA/SOLACE - Delivering Good Governance in
Local Government – Guidance Note for English
Authorities

David Hughes
Chief Executive