

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 June 2015

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

This report requests that Members of the Audit Committee carry out a review of the above Code and recommend through Cabinet adoption by the Council.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is committed to adopting the principles of good governance and demonstrates this publicly through the adoption and continued maintenance of a local Code of Corporate Governance, as recommended within the CIPFA/SOLACE (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accounting and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) Framework for Good Governance in Local Government, 2007.

1.1.2 In 2012, CIPFA/SOLACE published an addendum to the 2007 framework along with a Guidance Note for English Local Authorities. In order to meet the latest guidance, the Council's Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and updated in 2013.

1.1.3 The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Good Governance in Local Government defines governance as 'the systems and processes, cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities'.

1.1.4 Each year, the Annual Governance Review process, culminating in the Annual Governance Statement, is used to confirm that the Council's arrangements to comply with the Local Code of Corporate Governance are in place and effective.

1.2 Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

1.2.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance adopted in 2013 has been reviewed and no amendment is considered to be required other than some minor textual amendments. A copy of the Code is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement for Council's to develop a Local Code of Corporate Governance, such a Code provides a public document that demonstrates how the Council ensures it operates in a proper way and in accordance with the law.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 There are no financial and value for money considerations arising from the Code.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 The Code of Corporate Governance meets the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Good Governance in Local Government and has been prepared with due consideration to good governance practice, as set out in the Framework.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 Members are requested to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance, and subject to any amendment required, to **recommend** to Cabinet for adoption by Council.

Background papers:

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

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