

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET

24 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

**The Audit Committee is due to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance at its meeting on 22 June for subsequent recommendation to Cabinet and adoption by 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 June 2014.
- 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 Policy Considerations**

- 1.7.1 [Select those that apply from Add-Ins >> All Entries >> Policy Considerations, or remove section]

### **1.8 Recommendations**

- 1.8.1 Subject to any comments from the Audit Committee, Cabinet is requested to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance and recommend to Council it be adopted.

Background papers:

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

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