

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

3 April 2017

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Decision

1 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

This report recommends to Members of the Audit Committee changes required to the Local Code of Corporate Governance

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In January we reported that the Framework document “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016” had resulted in a requirement for the TMBC Local Code of Corporate Governance to be largely rewritten.

1.1.2 An internal audit “gap analysis” highlighted a number of areas where the current Local Code may not meet the requirements of the 2016 Framework. In particular, many of the requirements link to provisions in the Council’s Constitution, which is currently also under review, with a view to submission of a revised constitution for scrutiny at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2017.

1.1.3 A detailed review and revision of the Local Code has now taken place, taking into account the gap analysis, and feeding into the review of the constitution. The proposed amended Local Code, which complies with the Framework, is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

1.2 Legal Implications

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.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

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

1.4 Risk Assessment

Adoption of a Local Code of Corporate Governance is seen as good practice in that it demonstrates how the Council ensures it operates in a proper way and in accordance with the law and as such is subject to annual review to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Not to do so may attract unwelcome comment/criticism.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

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.

1.6 Recommendations

It is recommended that Audit Committee recommend to Cabinet the adoption of the amended Local Code for Corporate Governance as attached to this report.

Background papers:

contact: Adrian Stanfield

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

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Adrian Stanfield
Director of Central Services