

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

16 June 2014

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

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 & 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 2014 Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

- 1.2.1 A review has been carried out and the Local Code of Corporate Governance adopted in 2013 is considered to remain appropriate, and requires only one change; the addition of a reference to the Council's Strategic Risk Register at 4.3. 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 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.