

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

24 July 2023

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

This report informs Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed by this Committee in July 2022. At that time the Code required a number of material amendments due to a number of activities that had taken place which had consequences for the Local Code, including:

The LGA Peer Review Challenge 2022;

Changes to executive governance arrangements;

Adoption of a new Kent Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

An internal audit of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

1.1.2 The proposed amendments to the Code at this time are all relatively minor in nature, with no significant activities having taken place since July 2022 that impact upon our corporate governance arrangements.

1.1.3 A revised Code is attached as **Annex 1**. Changes to the code are shown as tracked changes. The principal amendment relates to the introduction of the new Corporate Strategy for 2023-25, that strategy having been submitted to Full Council earlier this month for final approval. All other changes are minor updates to the Code.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement for Councils 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

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

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 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 criticism.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 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.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Members are asked to **approve** the amendments to the Local Code of Corporate Governance set out at **Annex 1** and **commend** it to Council for adoption.

Background papers:

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CIPFA/SOLACE – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016”

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