

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 July 2024

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 2023.

1.1.2 There are no substantive changes proposed to the Code. The Code has been revised to reflect a small number of minor updates within the past year including the following:

(a) The Procurement Partnership Agreement entered into by the Council on 1 May 2024.

(b) The inclusion of reference to the Statutory Officers' Meetings

(c) The Climate Change Action Plan for 2023 – 2024

(d) A review of the arrangements for dealing with Members Code of Conduct complaints (agreed by Council in October 2023)

1.1.3 A revised Code is attached as **Annex 1**. Changes to the code are shown as tracked changes.

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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