

## Audit Committee

21 July 2025

### Part 1 - Public

#### Recommendation to Council



Cabinet Member	Martin Coffin, Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services
Responsible Officer	Damian Roberts, Chief Executive and Adrian Stanfield, Director of Central Services
Report Author	Joy Ukadike, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### Local Code of Corporate Governance

##### 1 Summary and Purpose of Report

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

##### 2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all residents, maintaining an effective Council.
- 2.2 Ensuring that the Council's governance arrangements work towards meeting the seven principles of good governance as set out in the CIPFA Good Governance in Local Government Framework.

##### 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve the updates and amendments to the Local Code of Corporate Governance at **Annex 1** and commend it to the Council for adoption.

##### 4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed by this Committee in July 2024.
- 4.2 There are no substantive changes to the Code. The Code has been revised to reflect a small number of minor updates within the past year including the following:
  - (a) A new complaints handling procedure from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025
  - (b) Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2025/2026

(c) Procurement Strategy 2024-2026

- 4.3 A revised Code is attached at Annex 1. Changes to the code are shown as tracked changes.

## **5 Proposal**

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

## **6 Other Options**

- 6.1 None considered.

## **7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

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

## **8 Risk Assessment**

- 8.1 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.

## **9 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 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.

## **10 Consultation and Communications**

- 10.1 Internal consultation has been undertaken with relevant services.

## **11 Implementation**

- 11.1 Subject to approval by this Committee and by Council, the revised Code will be published on the Council's website.

## **12 Cross Cutting Issues**

- 12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 12.1.1 N/A

- 12.2 Equalities and Diversity

12.2.1 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.

Background Papers	CIPFA/SOLACE – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016”
Annexes	Annex 1 – Revised Code of Corporate Governance