

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
15 MARCH 2016**

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Cabinet Member Cllr Clive Eginton, Leader
Responsible Officer Amy Tregellas, Head of Communities & Governance

Reason for Report: To present the Committee with the updated Code of Corporate Governance

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Committee approves the annual update of the Code of Corporate Governance

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Having effective and efficient governance arrangements is a fundamental element of being a 'well managed' council.

Financial Implications: None arising from this report

Legal Implications: None arising from this report

Risk Assessment: Failure to review the Code on an annual basis would impact on the quality of the Council's Annual Governance Statement and could ultimately impact on the external auditors Annual Governance Report.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Corporate Governance is the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities. It is founded on the fundamental principles of openness, integrity and accountability together with the overarching concept of leadership.

1.2 There are six core governance principles that have been adapted for local authorities, which are:

- (a) Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
- (b) Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
- (c) Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
- (d) Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
- (e) Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective; and
- (f) Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

- 1.3 Attached as Appendix A is the Council's Code of Corporate Governance which is reviewed, updated and published on the Website on an annual basis. Changes have been tracked for ease of reference.
- 1.4 We will undertake an Annual review of our corporate governance arrangements, and at the end of the financial year, we will produce our Annual Governance Statement. The statement will outline the effectiveness of the Code of Governance and its application, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. The Committee will receive further information on the production of the Annual Governance Statement in May prior to reviewing and signing off the draft Statement at the end of June.

Contact for more Information: Amy Tregellas, Head of Communities & Governance

Circulation of the Report: Cllrs Clive Eginton and Management Team