
Subject:	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LOCAL CODE REVIEW
Meeting and Date:	Governance Committee – 28 September 2023 Council – 18 October 2023
Report of:	Rebecca Brough, Head of Corporate Services and Democracy
Classification:	UNRESTRICTED

Purpose of the report: To agree the amended Corporate Governance Local Code

Recommendation:

- (a) That the Governance Committee recommend to the Council that the revised Corporate Governance Local Code be adopted.
- (b) That the Council adopt the revised Corporate Governance Local Code.

1. Summary

The Corporate Governance Local Code brings together legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes, providing a framework for the proper conduct of the Council's business in an accountable way.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Council is required to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and report on the extent to which it complies with its adopted Corporate Governance Local Code. This must be conducted in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

2.2 The Council in 2017 reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of good governance by adopting a new Corporate Governance Local Code that reflected the latest revision of the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework produced in 2016. This Framework remains unchanged since 2016 and the Council's Corporate Governance Local Code continues to reflect it.

2.3 In reviewing the Corporate Governance Local Code this year, it has been noted that there are a number of changes to post titles that need to be updated to reflect changes to the organisation. This report seeks to make those changes to bring it in line with the current organisational structure of the Council.

2.4 There are no other changes proposed to the Corporate Governance Local Code. However, it should be noted that the Corporate Governance Local Code also contains the Council's Risk Management Strategy which is currently under review. An updated Risk Management Strategy is expected to be submitted to a meeting of the Governance Committee later this municipal year.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: To adopt the revised Corporate Governance Local Code.

3.2 Option 2: To not adopt the revised Corporate Governance Local Code.

3.3 Option 3: To make a different amendment than that proposed to the Corporate Governance Local Code.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. It updates the Corporate Governance Local Code to reflect the current organisational structure and responsibilities while ensuring that it remains fully compliant with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016).
- 4.2 Option 2 is not the preferred option as the Corporate Governance Local Code would continue to make reference to posts that are no longer on the Council's establishment.
- 4.3 Option 3 is not the preferred option as it potentially could lead to non-compliance with the Council's obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016). If Members wish to make any changes other than those set out in the report, it is requested that officers be instructed to bring back a report assessing the implications of these changes.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct Climate Change or Environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Accountancy has been consulted and has no further comments. (JS)
- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.
- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report regarding the adoption of the revised Corporate Governance Local Code does not specifically highlight any equality implications. However, in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Corporate Governance Local Code

9. Background Papers

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)

Contact Officer: Rebecca Brough, Head of Corporate Services and Democracy,
rebecca.brough@dover.gov.uk