
Subject:	GOVERNANCE LOCAL CODE REVISION
Meeting and Date:	Governance Committee – 26 September 2013 Council – 27 November 2013
Report of:	Dave Randall, Director of Governance
Decision Type:	Non-key
Classification:	Unrestricted

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

- Recommendation:**
1. Governance Committee recommend to Council that the amended Corporate Governance Local Code, which incorporates the Risk Management Strategy and the Performance Management Framework, is adopted.
 2. Council adopts the amended Corporate Governance Local Code.
-

1. Summary

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

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 CIPFA in association with SOLACE developed *Corporate Governance in Local Government* together with accompanying guidance notes. These have been in use since 2001 along with various revisions and updates to the guidance. At Dover, this forms the basis of our Corporation Governance Local Code.

- 2.2 In 2013 Grant Thornton, the Council's auditors surveyed 64 local government leaders and analysed 153 council governance statements and found that many councils followed the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance too rigidly, rather than reflecting the unique features and challenges of their individual Councils.

Grant Thornton state that Good Council Governance should not just be about publishing statements of compliance, it should be about ensuring the entire organisation is aligned to achieving its strategic goals , ethically and effectively.

- 2.3 This revised code reflects what we do in Dover to ensure good Governance rather than conforming to a national model, while at the same time ensuring we revise our practices in line with legal and moral requirements.

This Code also now incorporates our Risk Management Strategy and our Performance Management Framework, bringing together three important Governance Frameworks into one document.

2.4 Data Collection, monitoring and action planning are done through the Council's Performance Monitoring System (Covalent). An example of a report from Covalent is at **Appendix 1**. This shows the Compliance information and documentation available for audit.

3. **Identification of Options**

3.1 To agree the revised Corporate Governance Local Code

3.2 To request a different version of the Corporate Governance Local Code.

3.3 Not to agree the revised Corporate Governance Local Code

4. **Evaluation of Options**

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. As outlined above, it reflects best practice, but is also tailored to the arrangements already in place at DDC. Although comprehensive, it remains a proportionate response, bringing together information already available.

5. **Resource Implications**

5.1 No additional resources are required.

6. **Corporate Implications**

6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance has been consulted and has no further comments to add (SJL)

6.2 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.

6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications however, in discharging their responsibilities 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>

7. **Appendices**

- **Appendix 1 – Revised Local Code**
- **Appendix 2 – Table of Evidence**

8. **Background Papers**

None.

Contact Officer: Dave Randall, Director of Governance