

# CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

## Governance and Audit Committee - 6 March 2019

Report Author	<b>Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Councillor Ash Ashbee - Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Coastal Development</b>
Status	<b>For Decision</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Ward:	<b>All</b>

### Executive Summary:

This report recommends the adoption of a revised Code of Corporate Governance and Governance Framework

### Recommendation(s):

The Committee adopt the revised Code of Corporate Governance

### CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	There are no direct financial implications from the adoption of this revised Code.
<b>Legal</b>	The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council, every financial year to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an Annual Governance Statement. This report and documents reflect the CIPFA/SOLACE Good Governance Framework for Local Government 2016
<b>Corporate</b>	This report relates to a statutory and audit requirement and supports the development of an effective and efficient council.
<b>Equality Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.  Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	✓
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	✓
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓
	Engaging local communities including hard to reach groups meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.	

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	

<b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
Delivering value for money	✓
Supporting the Workforce	✓
Promoting open communications	✓

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 Governance is about our organisational frameworks, responsibilities, systems, processes, culture and values. Good governance happens when these things come together to make us an effective organisation – doing the right things in the right way for the right people. Good governance is also about ensuring what we do is done in a timely, inclusive, honest and accountable manner.

## **2.0 Code of Corporate Governance**

2.1 Our Code of Corporate Governance is the document that sets out the governance principles which we are committed to and within which we conduct our business and affairs. The Code forms part of our overall governance framework which brings together legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes. This ensures that, the way the council operates is based on sound decision making with an effective process to support it.

2.2 The council challenges on an ongoing basis the application and adherence to the Code of Corporate Governance and conducts an annual review which results in the preparation of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). As a result of this annual review, the AGS also includes an action plan to ensure that we continually improve.

## **3.0 Future Work**

3.1 It is good practice to include within the Code, future planned work in developing the council's governance arrangements and these future plans will be reported to this committee in due course.

3.2 Over the coming year we will move to producing a web-based version of the code which will be more readily available to the public, members and staff.

Contact Officer:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

### Annex List

Annex 1	Revised Code of Corporate Governance
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### Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
CIPFA/SOLACE Good Governance Framework for Local Government 2016	Copy available from Director of Corporate Governance
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/234/pdfs/uksi_20150234_en.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/234/pdfs/uksi_20150234_en.pdf</a>

### Corporate Consultation

Finance	Head of Finance
Legal	Tim Howes Director of Corporate Governance