



Audit and Risk Management Committee

19th November 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Revised Code of Corporate Governance 2018
REPORT OF:	Director of Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

The report seeks the Committee's approval of the Council's revised Code of Corporate Governance.

The Council's current Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed in 2016.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Audit and Risk Management Committee:

- (1) Approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance at Appendix 1; and
- (2) That the new framework be included in the Council's Constitution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1** To ensure that the Council's Code of Corporate Governance is compliant with the CIPFA / SOLACE Guidance / Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government and follows best practice.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1** No other options were considered. There is no alternative Code of Corporate Governance available.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** Corporate governance is a phrase used to describe how organisations direct and control what they do. For local authorities this also includes how a council relates to the communities that it serves.
- 3.2** The Council's current Code of Corporate Governance was last revised in 2016.
- 3.3** The CIPFA / SOLACE framework applies to annual governance statements prepared for the financial year 2016/17 onwards.
- 3.4** The concept underpinning the framework is that it is helping local government in taking responsibility for developing and shaping an informed approach to governance, aimed at achieving the highest standards in a measured and proportionate way.
- 3.5** By applying the principles in the Code, the Council commits itself to discharging its functions and delivering its services to Wirral residents in a way that demonstrates accountability, transparency, effectiveness, integrity, and inclusivity.
- 3.6** There are two main changes to the Code that have been made:
- i.** The new Code of Corporate Governance is a streamlined / more accessible framework, which communicates that the Council's decision making process is based upon sound / clear principles.
 - ii.** The evidence base for compliance with the Code has been updated to reflect the Council's current operating model.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** There are no such implications arising.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Council is required to ensure it has strong corporate governance arrangements in place so as to be able to effectively meet and discharge its

obligations, responsibilities and duties. Inadequate governance arrangements could lead to significant governance issues arising leaving the Council open to challenge.

5.2 Reviewing and amending the Code in accordance with the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework will ensure that the Council's governance arrangements are both fit for purpose and take into account best practice guidance.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no such implications arising.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Council is open to challenge should it not have effective corporate governance arrangements in place.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Code of Corporate Governance review has been undertaken in consultation with senior officers and Internal Audit.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no such direct implications arising.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Revised Code of Corporate Governance

REFERENCE MATERIAL

CIPFA / SOLACE Guidance / Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Code of Corporate Governance review	November 2016