



## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 23 September 2015

### CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (REP1216)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
1.	CIPFA recommend an annual review of the Code of Corporate Governance as directed in the latest CIPFA/SOLACE 2012 publication entitled <i>Delivering Good Governance in Local Government</i> .
2.	The Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed in June 2014. The main body of the Code remains unchanged but the evidence attached has been refreshed to capture all current frameworks and processes in operation. The refreshed list is attached as Appendix 2 to the Code of Corporate Governance which is set out at Appendix A to the report for consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee; this falls within the Committee's terms of reference to 'provide independent assurance to the Council that its overall governance arrangements are working effectively'.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Mike Barnard Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms
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<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Mrs Siobhan Martin Head of Internal Audit 01394 444254 <a href="mailto:siobhan.martin@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">siobhan.martin@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which such bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with, and where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 1.2 The Council strives to meet the highest standards of corporate governance to help ensure it meets its objectives. Members and officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal.
- 1.3 All local authorities were strongly recommended to adopt a Code of Corporate Governance ("the Code") by 31 March 2002. Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March 2002 approved the Code for this Council. This Code was based on a CIPFA/SOLACE framework set in 2001. This framework was supplemented by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and CIPFA publication entitled "The Good Governance Standard for Public Services".
- 1.4 Following the CIPFA/SOLACE publication (2012) entitled *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*, known as a Framework, the Code was refreshed and captured a number of significant changes in Local Authority governance, e.g. The Localism Act 2011, Data Transparency – Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities (2011), new roles of the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Internal Audit and locally the formal partnership arrangements with Suffolk Coastal District Council.
- 1.5 The concept underpinning the Framework 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. The Framework is intended to assist authorities individually in reviewing and accounting for their own unique approach. The overall aim is to ensure that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to principles; that there is sound and inclusive decision making; and that there is clear accountability for the use of those resources, in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.
- 1.6 The Code identified six core principles against which local authorities should review their existing corporate governance arrangements and develop and maintain a local code of governance. Each core principle has a number of supporting principles which in turn have a range of specific requirements that apply across the range of Council business,

The principles are:

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

- 1.7 The Code will facilitate the Council’s review of its corporate governance arrangements (incorporating a list of corporate evidence) for the purposes of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.8 Attached to this report is an updated Joint Code of Corporate Governance.

**2 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 2.1 Having adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, the Council needs to ensure:
- 2.2 that the principles and practices in it are adhered to, and
- 2.3 that it is periodically reviewed, to ensure that it continues to remain up-to-date and relevant.

**3. OTHER KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment, a Sustainability Impact Assessment or a Partnership Impact Assessment.

**4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

**5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 No further options have been considered.

**6. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 By reviewing and considering the revised Code in accordance with best practice the Council will fulfil its responsibility within its Constitution.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the revised Code of Corporate Governance in Appendix A be adopted.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A	SCDC & WDC – Code of Corporate Governance
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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Date	Type	Available From
June 2014	Code of Corporate Governance	Head of Internal Audit