

REPORT TO:		CABINET	
DATE:		18th February 2026	
PORTFOLIO:		Councillor Vanessa Alexander - Resources and Council Operations	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Jane Ellis Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Code of Corporate Governance	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval for a new code of corporate governance.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves the draft code of corporate governance appended to this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

3.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) recommend that all local authorities should document their governance arrangements to demonstrate compliance with the “seven core principles of good governance” which CIPFA and SOLACE have jointly developed. Our neighbouring authorities already have codes in place and it has been suggested that the codes may be useful starting points or points of reference for the work to develop governance arrangements both for the local government reorganisation process and for the emerging successor authorities.

3.2 The seven core principles are as follows:

- i. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- ii. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- iii. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- iv. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- v. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- vi. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- vii. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

3.3 The Council is committed to having an effective governance framework and, using the CIPFA / SOLACE principles, has developed a Code of Corporate Governance which identifies the arrangements the Council has in place to support good governance. The code also identifies activity planned for the next 12 months to further strengthen the Council's governance arrangements

3.4 The Council's governance framework will be reviewed annually to ensure its ongoing effectiveness.

4 Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Council could decide not to adopt a code of corporate governance. This is not recommended as it would be contrary to CIPFA guidance and recognised good practice.

5 Consultations

5.1 The draft code was shared with service managers and other key staff and their comments and suggestions have been incorporated.

6 Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None
Legal and human rights implications	None
Assessment of risk	None, although having a code and keeping the same under review will help to highlight areas of risk and areas for improvement or review within the Council's governance arrangements.
Equality and diversity implications	Not applicable

<p>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</p>	
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7 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

7.1 None.

8 Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.