



REPORT TO:	Audit & Governance Committee
DATE:	13 th July 2023
SUBJECT:	Local Code of Corporate Governance
PURPOSE:	To consider and recommend for approval the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance to ensure it complies with best practice.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance
REPORT OF:	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
REPORT AUTHOR:	Rebecca James, Scrutiny & Policy Officer
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The Local Code of Corporate Governance is designed to support the Council in meeting its commitment to achieving good corporate governance. This committee is being asked to consider whether the revised and updated document accurately reflects the Council's governance arrangements and ensures it is meeting the core principles as set out in the CIPFA guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Committee considers the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance and recommends it for approval by Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To meet Corporate Governance best practice.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. To this end members and senior officers are responsible for ensuring that proper arrangements exist for the governance of the Council's affairs and stewardship of its resources.

1.2 The Council has prepared a Local Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with the revised CIPFA/SOLACE guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The code demonstrates the ways in which the Council will achieve good corporate governance.

2. REPORT

2.1 Boston's proposed local code is set out at **Appendix A**. This has been revised to reflect changes to the guidance as well as changes to the way the authority operates. This Committee is requested to review the document to ensure that Members are satisfied that the document accurately reflects the Council's governance arrangements in meeting the core principles set out in the guidance:

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

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Robust governance arrangements are essential to ensuring good corporate governance. This revised Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out how the Council will achieve this.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Local Code of Governance brings all governance practices together into one document and makes them open and explicit.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The Local Code of Governance will be aligned across the Partnership, allowing members and officers to follow correct practice.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Robust governance arrangements are an essential element of the delivery of all corporate priorities

STAFFING

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

Effective corporate governance arrangements ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

n/a

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

None

ACRONYMS

CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Local Code of Corporate Governance
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.	https://www.cipfa.org

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Rebecca James, Scrutiny & Policy Officer
Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
Approved for publication:	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance