



REPORT TO:	Full Council
DATE:	18 September 2023
SUBJECT:	Local Code of Corporate Governance
PURPOSE:	To consider approval of 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. The Code has been updated to reflect the Council's governance arrangements and reflect the core principles as set out in the CIPFA guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The Audit and Governance Committee considered the updated Code at its meeting on 13 July 2023 and recommended it for approval by Full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Council approves the Local Code of Corporate Governance as attached at Appendix A.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To meet Corporate Governance best practice.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None identified

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 The Council's proposed Local Code is set out at **Appendix A**. This has been revised to reflect changes to the CIPFA guidance as well as changes to the way the authority operates since the previous review.

2.2 The Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 13 July 2023 reviewed the Local Code to ensure the document accurately reflected 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.

2.3 The Audit and Governance Committee supported the document and recommended that it be presented to Council for approval.

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 Corporate Governance brings all governance practices together into one document and makes them open and explicit.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

A review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance in each Council has been undertaken.

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

The Local Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed by the Audit and Governance Committee.

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

SOLACE - Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers

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 was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 13 July 2023.

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