Audit and Scrutiny Committee
17 November 2022

# CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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| **Head of Service:** | Andrew Bircher, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources |
| **Wards affected:** | (All Wards); |
| **Urgent Decision?(yes/no)** | No. |
| **If yes, reason urgent decision required:** | N/A. |
| **Appendices (attached):** | Appendix 1 – Code of Corporate Governance |


## Summary

This report provides an update to the format and content of Council's Code of Corporate Governance ('the Code'). The previous Code was adopted in 2017. The Code acts a foundational document in the production of the Annual Governance Statement ('AGS'), which assesses the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements. The AGS is brought to this committee in June each year.


## Recommendation (s)

## The Committee is asked to:

**(1) The Committee is asked to approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance.**

### 1 Reason for Recommendation

1.1 To review the Council's existing governance arrangements and provide a basis on which to produce and approve the 2022-2023 AGS in June 2023. The AGS is required to be published as part of the Council's financial accounts.

## 2 Background

2.1 In 2016, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) produced the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government framework.[1] This framework defines the principles that should underpin the Council's governance structure.

2.2 In 2017 the Council refreshed its Code to reflect changes made to the CIPFA framework. Therefore in 2022 it is prudent for the Council to review and update the Code.

2.3 The updates to the Code are mostly administrative, such as updating management team names, including new policies, processes, and other governance arrangements. The Code's format has also been amended and sections added to provide additional context to readers regarding the roles and responsibilities for governance at the Council.

## 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No direct implications arising from this report, although equality is a theme within the CIPFA framework.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No direct implications arising from this report

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No direct implications arising from this report

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 The production of the AGS relies in part on the Code of Corporate Governance.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

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[1] CIPFA (2016) *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016 Edition)*, CIPFA/Solace. Online available: https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/d/delivering-good-governance-in-local-government-framework-2016-edition [last accessed 21/10/2022].

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments**: None arising from the contents of this report.

## 5 Legal Implications

5.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments**: None arising from the contents of this report.

## 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities**: The following Key Priorities are engaged: the council's governance arrangements, as documented in this report, underpin all the council's priorities.

6.2 **Service Plans**: The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations**: No direct implications arising from this report.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications**: No direct implications arising from this report.

6.5 **Partnerships**: The Council's internal and external auditors may reference the Code in their work.

## 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- Code of Corporate Governance. Strategy and Resources Committee, Tuesday 4th April 2017, 7.30pm. Online available (see Item 147): https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=259&Ver=4 [last accessed 21/10/2022].

**Other papers:**

- Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022. Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Tuesday 14th June 2022, 7.30pm. Online available (see Item 5): https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=1250&Ver=4 [last accessed 21/10/2022]/