

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - ANNUAL REVIEW

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Interim Director of Corporate Services
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Code of Corporate Governance

Summary

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance - 'the Code' - was updated and approved by the Committee in November 2022. The Code sets out the principles of good governance and the arrangements the Council has in place to ensure it conducts its business in accordance with them. As part of best practice, the Code is reviewed annually by officers. Attached at Appendix 1 is an updated Code. No major changes have been made, purely minor administrative updates.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve the updates to the Code of Corporate Governance attached at Appendix 1.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To ensure the Committee remains regularly apprised of the contents of the Code of Corporate Governance, and ensure the document remains up-to-date.

2 Background

- 2.1 In addition to setting out the council's key governance arrangements, the Code acts as a foundational document in the production of the Annual Governance Statement ('AGS'). The AGS assesses the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements based on the Code. The AGS is also brought to the committee annually, and published alongside the council's statement of accounts.
- 2.2 The Code has been reviewed and minor administrative updates made. The updates are available to view in Appendix 1 as track changes. If approved by the Committee, a 'clean' version of the document will be produced and published on the Council's [website](#).

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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 None for the purposes of this report.

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

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None for the purposes of 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: All, the council's governance arrangements, as documented in this report, underpin all the council's priorities.

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

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No direct impacts.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No direct impacts.

6.5 **Partnerships:** No direct impacts.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Audit and Scrutiny Committee (November 2022) *Code of Corporate Governance*, see Item 22. Online available: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=157&MIId=1252> [last accessed 25/09/23].

Other papers:

- Audit and Scrutiny Committee (July 2023) *Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023*, see Item 52. Online available: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=157&MIId=1478> [last accessed 25/09/23].