

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REVIEW

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Interim Director of Corporate Services
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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Code of Corporate Governance 2024

Summary

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance - 'the Code' - was updated and brought to the Committee in November 2023. The Code sets out the principles of good governance, and the arrangements the Council has in place to demonstrate its compliance with them. As part of best practice, the Code is reviewed annually by officers and submitted to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Attached at Appendix 1 is an updated Code, representing changes since last year's edition.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the updated Code of Corporate Governance attached at Appendix 1.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To ensure the Committee remains regularly appraised of the contents of the Code of Corporate Governance, and have an opportunity to review and feedback on its efficacy.

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.

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- 2.2 The Code has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes since last year's edition of the Code. The updates are available to view in Appendix 1 as track changes. If supported by the Committee, a 'clean' version of the document will be produced and published on the council's [website](#).

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 If Members have a detailed question(s) on particular elements of the report, it is requested that these be submitted in advance where possible, to enable officers the time to prepare full and complete answers.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct implications, however the Code highlights key aspects of the council's financial governance that help ensure prudential financial management.

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

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct implications, however the Code highlights key aspects of the council's legal governance that helps ensure it conducts its business in compliance with legislation.

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

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6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council

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

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** There are no direct implications, however the Code highlights key elements of the council's governance that demonstrate actions its undertaking to meet the Principle of 'Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits'.

6.5 **Partnerships:** There are no direct implications, however the Code highlights key partnerships the council has, which form part of its governance framework.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (2023) *Code of Corporate Governance - Annual Review*, Audit & Scrutiny Committee, 16th November 2023. Online available: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MIId=1499> [last accessed 08/10/2024]

Other papers:

- None.