

# Audit and Scrutiny Committee

## 5 February 2026

### CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/26

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Will Mace, Corporate Governance and Strategy Manager; Ian Wood, Performance and Risk Officer
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 - Code of Corporate Governance 2025/26

#### Summary

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance - 'the Code' - was updated and brought to the Committee in November 2024. 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 and 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 contents of the Code. The AGS is also brought to the committee annually, and published alongside the council's statement of accounts.

# Audit and Scrutiny Committee

## 5 February 2026

2.2 The Code has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes since last year's edition. The updates are available to view in Appendix 1 as track changes. Following the Committee's review, 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.

##### 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 No direct implications arising from this report.

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

### 5 Legal Implications

5.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

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

### 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

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

- N/A

# Audit and Scrutiny Committee

## 5 February 2026

- 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:** No direct implications arising from this report.
- 6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** No direct implications arising from this report.

### 7 Background papers

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

#### **Previous reports:**

- *Code of Corporate Governance Annual Review*, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Online available: [Epsom and Ewell Democracy](#) [last accessed 01/12/2025].

#### **Other papers:**

- None.