

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Democratic

Wards Affected

County Wide

Purpose

1. To consider and agree the revised Code of Corporate Governance for the Council following the new governance framework and guidelines.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Background

3. The Committee will recall having received a report on the Code of Corporate Governance. The code has been revised taking into account the framework agreed by Cabinet on 27th March 2008 (attached as Appendix 2) and reflects the requirements outlined in the CIPCA/SOLACE publication '*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*'. Cabinet requested that the Monitoring Officer carry out a review of the Code to meet the new regulations and guidance. The (draft) revised Code of Corporate Governance (attached as Appendix 1) takes into account the new framework.
4. The CIPFA/SOLACE guidance in '*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*' sets out six core principles on which effective governance should be built, each of which have a number of key requirements to ensure that the principles are embedded in the Council's policies, procedures and systems (see Appendix 1).
5. The six core principles are:
 - i. Focusing on the purposes of the Council and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area
 - ii. Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles
 - iii. Promoting values for the Council and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
 - iv. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk
 - v. Developing the capacity and capability of member and officers to be effective.

- vi. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

Consideration

6. An annual review of the Code of Corporate Governance will be conducted to produce an Annual Governance Statement, in order formally to meet audit and accounting regulations.
7. The Code of Corporate Governance is needed to meet the requirements of the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2003 (as amended) and to ensure that governance arrangements continue to meet best practice

Recommendations

THAT

the Committee approves the Code of Corporate Governance which was considered by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 3 July 2008, subject to any comments or amendments, for approval by Cabinet.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – (Draft) Revised Code of Corporate Governance
- Appendix 2 – Cabinet Report by Director of Resources – 27th March 2008.