

DECISION-MAKER:	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ANNUAL REVIEW		
DATE OF DECISION:	28 APRIL 2014		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
N/A

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the commitment of Southampton City Council to continue to uphold the highest possible standards of good governance. The intention is that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services continues with the “light touch” annual review unless earlier review is required

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) To note and approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance (“CCG”) (Appendix 1).

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Governance Committee has responsibility for leading on all aspects of Corporate Governance by promoting the values of putting people first, valuing public service and creating a norm of the highest standards of personal and professional conduct.
2. The Governance Committee is also responsible for ‘receiving regular reports on the performance of the Corporate Complaints process, Local Government Ombudsman referrals, Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance and to recommend revisions to related policies and procedures as appropriate’.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. No alternative options have been considered.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. Corporate Governance is defined as ‘how local government bodies ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities’

**Source: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Framework (CIPFA, 2007)*

5. The CCG is based around six core principles which were identified in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (“CIPFA”) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (“SOLACE”) ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework and accompanying Guidance Note’ which was originally published in 2007’.
6. In December 2012, a CIPFA/SOLACE Joint Working Group issued an addendum and revised guidance note following a review of the original Framework and Guidance. Accordingly the format of the CCG document has been revised to accord with the principles in the guidance.
7. In addition, one of the key actions arising from the 2011-12 Annual Governance Statement was a recognition that "A biennial review is no longer considered appropriate in terms of being able to reflect significant changes in legislation that potentially impact on the CCG. The CCG will therefore to be subject to an annual ‘light touch’ review as part of the review of the Constitution".
8. The minimally revised CCG (Appendix 1) reflects the current best practice guidance.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

9. None

Property/Other

10. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require the Council to adopt Good Governance arrangements in respect of the discharge of its functions. The above arrangements are intended to meet those responsibilities.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	N/A
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Code of Corporate Governance 2014
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	N/A
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Guidance for English Authorities (2012 Edition).	Risk & Insurance Services, Civic Centre SO14 7LY
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