

**REPORT OF:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**TO:** ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE  
**DATES:** 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

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**DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
(CIPFA/SOLACE) FRAMEWORK - UPDATE**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Council's Self-Assessment against the principles set out

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Accounts and Audit Committee is recommended to:
  - a) review the Self-Assessment shown at **Appendix A** and comment as appropriate;
  - b) note that those actions with an AMBER rating will remain under regular review to ensure appropriate action is taken to improve the arrangements in place.

**ISSUE**

3. Councillors will appreciate that the governance of the Council is fundamental to its success as an organisation. In this context, governance comprises the arrangements put in place by the Council to ensure that intended outcomes are defined and achieved which are in the public interest at all times.
4. Annually, the Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), which is published as part of its Statement of Accounts, which comprises a description of the governance arrangements in place at the Council and how they have operated throughout the year. In support of this, the Council is expected to keep its governance arrangements under regular review throughout the year.

5. To support local authorities in their endeavors to ensure that governance arrangements are adequate and appropriate, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) collaboratively produced the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: A Framework* (hereafter referred to as 'the Framework'). The Framework defines the principles of good governance that should underpin the governance of each local authority and importantly provides a structure to help Councils with their approach to governance.
6. Since the Framework was published the Council has maintained a Local Code of Corporate Governance in the form of a Self-Assessment against the principles (and sub-principles) of good governance identified in the Framework. This Self-Assessment is the subject of a periodic review by the Corporate Governance Group (comprising the Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Head of Legal Services, Financial Services Manager and Client and Performance Manager) and Management Team.
7. The latest periodic review of the Self-Assessment has recently been undertaken and the outcome of that review is provided at Appendix A. Compliance with the principles is measured by the following indicators:-
  - GREEN - current arrangements assesses as meeting the requirements.
  - AMBER - scope to strengthen current arrangements/some improvement required.
  - RED - nil compliance – no evidence that arrangements exist.
8. On the basis of the latest review, there are 8 areas which are AMBER rated and for which further action is required. Where this is the case, details of the action to be taken, responsible Officer and likely implementation are provided.
9. It should also be noted that whilst some actions are GREEN rated, anticipated changes in the Council's governance arrangements – and in particular, the reduction in the number of Councillors from 49 to 33 with effect from May 2020 – will require some aspects of the Council's arrangements to be up review and updated. An example of this is the Council's Constitution which is a key part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and which will require updating in due course to reflect the change in the number of Councillors and potential change in decision making structures.
10. As has been the case previously, the Self-Assessment will remain under review to ensure action is taken on the AMBER rated items and further reports will be submitted to this Committee in due course.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

11. There are no policy implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

### **Financial**

12. There are no financial implications arising directly as a consequence of the recommendations in this report.

### **Legal**

13. There are no new legal implications resulting directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **Risk Management**

14. There are no risk management implications resulting directly from the recommendations in this report. It should be noted, however, that the AMBER rated items shown at Appendix A remain under review to determine whether it is necessary to record them on the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

## **Health and Safety**

15. There are no health and safety implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **Sustainability**

16. There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

## **Community Safety**

17. There are no community safety issues arising directly from the contents of this report.

## **Equality and Diversity**

18. There are no equality and diversity issues arising from the contents of this report.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Results of the Self-Assessment Review as at January 2020.

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** – None