

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

24th July 2019

Review of the Code of Corporate Governance

Report by the Head of the Shared Audit Partnership

Purpose

The Local Code of Governance is reviewed every two years and has been updated followed a recent review.

Recommendations

To **RESOLVE** that -

the Council's revised Local Code of Governance 2019 attached at **Annex 1** to this report be approved and the document revised again in two year's time.

Key Points

- A. The RBK Local Code of Corporate Governance demonstrates the Council's commitment to good governance, and reflects the core principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. The Code is reviewed every two years.
- B. The document was last reviewed in July 2017 to reflect, in particular, some relatively significant changes to the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework.
- C. A revised Code is presented to the Committee for consideration. This has formed part of the Annual Governance Statement process for 2018/19.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

1. RBK is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
2. In discharging its responsibility, RBK is required to put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which include arrangements for the management of risk. Local authorities are expected to maintain a Local Code of Governance to show their commitment to good governance and demonstrate how the principles of good governance are applied.

3. RBK has approved and adopted a Local Code of Governance to meet these responsibilities and demonstrate its commitment to good governance. The Code is available on the intranet for staff and also on the Council's website.
4. The Code was first adopted in April 2005 and last revised in July 2017 to bring it in line with the then CIPFA/SOLACE framework.
5. A more significant review of the Code has been undertaken this time to simplify the format in line with best practice and to establish links to key documents.
6. Monitoring of compliance with the Code occurs through the Governance Assurance Framework – used to prepare the self assessment underpinning the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Environmental Implications

7. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

Timescale

8. It is the Council's practice to review the Local Code of Governance every two years.

Resource Implications

9. There are no particular resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

10. Monitoring of compliance with the Code occurs through the Governance Assurance Framework – used to prepare the self assessment underpinning the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Background papers – held by author Alix Wilson

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None