



## Governance Committee

Item  
**14**

13 October 2015

Report of	Monitoring Officer	Author	Andrew Weavers ☎ 282213
Title	Review of Local Code of Corporate Governance		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

**This report requests the Committee to review the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance**

### 1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To review the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2015/16 and to recommend to Council that it be approved for inclusion in the Council's policy framework.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 In 2007 CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) issued "Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities", a guide to ensuring that local authorities are appropriately governed. This was updated in December 2012.
- 2.2 Governance is defined as the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which an organisation is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and, where appropriate, leads their communities. It is about how Colchester Borough Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open and accountable manner
- 2.3 The Council strives to meet the highest standards of corporate governance to help ensure it meets its objectives. Members and Officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal.
- 2.4 Therefore a Local Code of Corporate Governance has been developed to ensure that the Council complies with the principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance. The Local Code is reviewed annually, to ensure that the Council is still satisfying the principles, and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- 2.5 The guidance identifies six Core Principles against which local authorities should review their existing corporate governance arrangements and develop and maintain a local code of governance. The principles are;
- Focusing on the purpose of the Council and outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
  - Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
  - Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;

- Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
- Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective; and
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

2.6 The six core principles each have a number of supporting principles, which in turn have a range of specific requirements that apply across the range of Council business.

2.7 The Local Code, and the Councils compliance with the principles, have been reviewed, and attached at Appendix 1 is the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2015/16. This sets out the six principles and elaborates on how the Council is meeting them, what source documents or processes evidence this and in addition highlights any further or ongoing work. This in turn links into the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

2.8 The following changes to the Code are highlighted for the Committee's information:

- The new Strategic Plan 2015 -2018
- Borough Investment for All (BIFA)
- Introduction of the Leaders Listening Sessions

### **3. Strategic Plan References**

3.1 The manner in which the Council governs its business is an underpinning mechanism in the Council's Strategic Plan aims to set out the direction and future potential for our Borough.

### **4. Publicity Considerations**

4.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance will be included in the Constitution and will be published on the Council's website.

### **5. Financial, Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, Consultation, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications**

5.1 None.