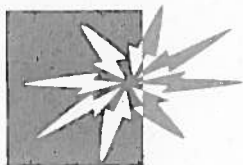


**Haringey** Council

Report for:	Corporate Committee 27 June 2013	Item Number:	
Title:	Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance		
Report Authorised by:	Bernie Ryan, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer <i>Bernie Ryan</i>		
Lead Officer:	Victoria Wyatt, Senior Corporate Lawyer		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for:		
All	Non Key Decision		

1. Describe the issue under consideration
  - 1.1 To inform members of the review of the local Code of Corporate Governance and the proposed revisions to the Code which are to be recommended to the Cabinet on 9 July for approval and on to full Council on 15 July for adoption.
2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A
3. Recommendations
  - 3.1 That members approve the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance as attached as the Appendix to the report.
  - 3.2 That members note process for consulting Member Bodies before adoption of the revised Code by full Council.
4. Alternative options considered
  - 4.1 The adoption of a local Code of Corporate Governance is not an express statutory function and there is no legal requirement for such a Code to be adopted.

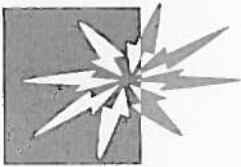


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However, it recommended as proper practice by the Department for Communities and Local Government to adopt a local Code of Corporate Governance in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE framework, entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government". The review of corporate governance is integral to the integrity of the Council and its decision-making processes.

### 5. Background information

- 5.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is the formal statement that recognises, records and publishes the effectiveness of the authority's governance framework across the Council. The AGS is published annually together with the Council's Statement of Accounts pursuant to regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
- 5.2 The Code of Corporate Governance exists as part of the authority's governance framework. The CIPFA/SOLACE framework, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" (2007) established principles and standards to assist local authorities to develop and maintain their codes of governance and discharge their accountability for the proper conduct of business. To ensure that their guidance remained fit for purposes, CIPFA/SOLACE issued an Addendum to the Guidance in December 2012.
- 5.3 The framework places significant emphasis on six core principles of good governance. These principles have been taken from 'The Good Governance Standard for Public Services' (2004) developed by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services with support from the Office Public Management and CIPFA. The principles have been adapted to local government purposes for the framework and are included in the Haringey Code of Corporate Governance.
- 5.4 The six core principles of good governance are:
  - A - Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
  - B - Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
  - C - Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
  - D - Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
  - E - Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.



## Haringey Council

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

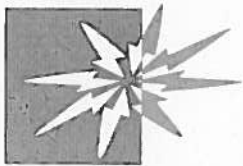
- 5.5 On 14 July 2008, full Council approved the Haringey Code of Corporate Governance. A review of the current Code by the Monitoring Officer (the Lead Officer responsible for monitoring the Code's effectiveness) has resulted in a number of minor changes to ensure that the Code is up to date and fit for purpose. A summary of the changes are set out below:

### General and format changes

- 5.6 All hyperlinks in the document have been updated.
- 5.7 Reference to the Remuneration Committee has been updated with the Corporate Committee, and reference to the Audit Committee has been updated with the Corporate Committee.

### Introduction and background

- 5.8 This has been updated to reflect the abolition of the national Model Code of Conduct for councillors and to include the recent revision to the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance. The review arrangements undertaken by the Lead Officer at paragraph (g) have been revised to streamline the process with the Annual Governance Statement.
- 5.9 This report seeks the Corporate Committee's comments on these revisions before the revised Code goes before the Cabinet and then full Council.
6. On-going review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and process for consulting Member Bodies
- 6.1 The adoption of a Local Code of Corporate Governance is not an express statutory function and there is no legal requirement for the formal decision on any review to be taken either by Cabinet or full Council.
- 6.2 It is proposed that going forward, the annual review of the Code is presented to the Corporate Committee as part of its audit function, at the same time that the Committee is presented with the draft Annual Governance Statement in the summer of each year. It is recommended that should any revisions to the Code be recommended, these should be approved in the same way as the original Code, that is, any changes will be presented to the Cabinet for approval and recommendation on to full Council for adoption.
- 6.3 The Monitoring Officer as Lead Officer will continue to oversee the review of the Code and of its effectiveness, supported by the core officer group responsible for the completion of the AGS, which also comprises the Head of Local Democracy & Member Services, the Head of Audit & Risk Management and key officers from



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within the Legal Service, Corporate Finance and Strategy and Business Intelligence.

7. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications.

8. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

8.1 A Code of Corporate Governance is recommended by the guidance designated as 'proper practice' by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This being the CIPFA/SOLACE framework, entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government".

8.2 There are no direct legal issues arising from this report.

9. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

9.1 The proposed Code of Corporate Governance reflects values and key commitments enshrined in the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. In this respect, it will contribute to supporting the Council's compliance with its public sector equality duty.

10. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

11. Policy Implication

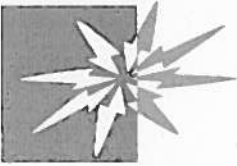
11.1 The Code of Governance has no direct implications for the Council's existing policy, priorities and strategies. Ensuring that the Council has effective governance arrangements in place and taking appropriate action to improve these where necessary will assist the Council to use its available resources more effectively.

12. Reasons for Decision

12.1 Adopting and maintaining the Haringey Local Code of Corporate Governance assists the Council to discharge its accountability for the proper conduct of business. The review of corporate governance is integral to the integrity of the Council and its decision-making processes.

13. Use of Appendices

Revised Haringey Local Code of Corporate Governance



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14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None