

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, 18 JULY 2023**

|  |   |       |          |               |
|--|---|-------|----------|---------------|
| <b>Report Title</b>  | <b>Local Code of Corporate Governance</b>   |       |          |               |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                                       | For members to consider and review Stroud District Councils Local Code of Corporate Governance which has been developed in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. |       |          |               |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>   | <b>The Committee RESOLVES to Adopt the Local Code of Corporate Governance.</b>  |       |          |               |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                               | Strategic Leadership Team<br>Corporate Governance Group   |       |          |               |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer)<br>Email: <a href="mailto:claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk">claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk</a>   |       |          |               |
| <b>Options</b>   | The Committee may determine not to adopt the Local Code although this is not recommended.   |       |          |               |
| <b>Background Papers</b>                                       | None  |       |          |               |
| <b>Appendices</b>  | Appendix A – Local Code of Corporate Governance   |       |          |               |
| <b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b> | Financial   | Legal | Equality | Environmental |
|  | No  | No    | No       | No            |

**1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' urges local authorities to review the effectiveness of their existing governance arrangements against a Local Code of Corporate Governance, and prepare a governance statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which they comply with their own code on an annual basis, including how they have monitored the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes for the coming period.
- 1.2 This report seeks to bring forward to members an updated Local Code of Corporate Governance for Stroud District Council, providing a Governance Framework which can be used to review the effectiveness of our governance arrangements in the financial year 2023/24.

**2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1 Corporate Governance comprises the systems and values by which Stroud District Council is directed and controlled and through which it is accountable. To demonstrate compliance with the principles of good corporate governance, the Council must ensure that it does the right things and in the right way. The Council must also ensure that this is done in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

- 2.2 To demonstrate 'good governance' the Council should have in place a Local Code which acts as a framework against which the Council is able to review the effectiveness of its controls. This review should then be captured in the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.3 The attached Local Code of Governance is based on the CIPFA/SOLACE publication entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government". It emphasises the importance of considering the longer term and the links between governance and public financial management. The Local Code specifically identifies the actions and behaviours taken by the Council in relation to each of the core and associated sub-principles as set out in the code.
- 2.4 Moving forward an annual review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance will be undertaken and presented to the Audit and Standards Committee each year. This will ensure that the Council is able to effectively review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements and identify any areas for improvement.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Having in place a Local Code of Corporate Governance will provide the Council with a robust framework which will enable it to review the effectiveness of its governance controls and identify any areas for future improvement.

### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category

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#### **4.2 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report. Whilst it is not a statutory requirement, CIPFA recommends that all local government bodies develop a local code of governance.

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#### **4.3 Equality Implications**

An EIA is not required because there are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

#### **4.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.