



AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
29 May 2014

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the changes made to the Code of Corporate Governance.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance (Annex A) and recommend it to the County Council for inclusion into the Constitution.

Background:

- 1 The Local Government Act 2000 places a reliance on local authorities to review their governance arrangements and operate through a local governance framework, which brings together requirements, governance principles and processes.
- 2 Surrey County Council's Code of Corporate Governance ('the Code') meets the Local Government Act 2000 by outlining the council's commitment to good governance and providing the principles against which the effectiveness of the council's governance arrangements are measured. It contains 32 Surrey County Council policies and procedures that underpin compliance with the governance principles and also sets out the mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the corporate governance arrangements.

Summary:

- 3 An annual review of the Code has been undertaken to ensure that it is fit for purpose and reflects the authority's approach and commitment to good governance. The Governance Panel approved the updated Code at its meeting on 1 May 2014 and it is attached at Annex A.
- 4 Three key changes have been made to the Code:
 - Inclusion of 'Communication and Engagement Strategy;'
 - Removal of 'Our Commitment to Public Involvement' as this has been subsumed into the above strategy; and
 - Inclusion of the 'People Strategy.'

Implications:

- Financial**
- 5 There are no direct financial implications of this report.
- Equalities**
- 6 There are no direct equalities implications of this report.
- Risk management**
- 7 An effective governance and internal control environment leads to improved performance and outcomes for residents.

Next Steps:

The Code of Corporate Governance will be presented to County Council for inclusion into the Constitution.

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Sources/background papers: Governance Panel papers, working papers, Cipfa/Solace Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government, The Code of Corporate Governance
