



Audit & Governance Committee
28 May 2015

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

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 it 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 Panel¹ approved the updated Code at its meeting on 30 April 2015 and it is attached at Annex A.

¹ Consisting Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Chair), Director of Finance, Senior representatives from HR and Policy & Performance, Chief Internal Auditor, Risk and Governance Manager

- 12
- 4 The format of the Code has been refreshed and a number of key changes have also been made:

Section	Pages	Changes
Governance review	6-7	Inclusion of internal audit assurance mapping as evidence for the annual review of governance.
Supporting governance documents	10	Overarching Data Governance policy has replaced Data Protection and Freedom of Information. Inclusion of Partnership Governance Framework (part of the council's Improvement Toolkit).
Governance document approval	12	New annex

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.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

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

REPORT AUTHORS: Cath Edwards, Risk and Governance Manager

CONTACT DETAILS: cath.edwards@surreycc.gov.uk, 020 8541 9193,

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