



AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
24 June 2013

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 31 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 15 May 2013 and it is attached at Annex A.
- 4 The Quality Board met for the last time in February 2013 and agreed that strong progress has been made over the last few years and in future, the strategic leadership on quality will be provided by the Governance Panel and Corporate Board. It was also agreed that the Quality Management Framework would not be refreshed or re-published when it expired on 31 March 2013. Therefore all references to the Quality Board and the Quality Management Framework have been taken out of the Code of Corporate Governance.

- 5 The 'Arrangements for dealing with complaints about Members' has also been added to the Code of Corporate Governance as a governance document.

IMPLICATIONS:

- Financial**
6 There are no direct financial implications of this report.
- Equalities**
7 There are no direct equalities implications of this report.
- Risk management**
8 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.

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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
