

# Somerset West and Taunton Council

## Audit and Governance Committee – 22 March 2022

### Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2022/2023

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Smith-Roberts

Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager and Monitoring Officer

#### 1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

To present the Committee with the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance for the 2022/2023 financial year.

#### 2 Recommendations

That the Committee approves the Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2022/23.

#### 3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Failure to have an up to date Local Code of Corporate Governance could impact on the quality of the Council's Annual Governance Statement and could ultimately impact on the external auditors Annual Governance Report.

#### 4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 Corporate Governance is the system by which Somerset West and Taunton Council directs / controls its functions and relates to its community.
- 4.2 Good Corporate Governance is required to ensure that the public services provided by the Council are delivered with both confidence and credibility.
- 4.3 The Council is committed to the principles of effective corporate governance and has therefore adopted a Code of Corporate Governance which follows the latest guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)'.
- 4.4 The guidance defines the seven core principles, each supported by sub-principles that should underpin the governance framework of a local authority.
- 4.5 7 core principles at the heart of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework are:
- A) Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
  - B) Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

C) Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.

D) Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

E) Developing the entity's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

F) Managing risk and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

G) Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

4.6 The amendments to Appendix A have been highlighted in ***bold italics*** for ease of reference.

## **5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities**

5.1 Having effective and efficient governance arrangements is a fundamental element of being a 'well managed' council

## **6 Finance / Resource Implications**

6.1 None arising from this report

## **7 Legal Implications**

7.1 None arising from this report

## **8 Environmental Impact Implications**

8.1 None arising from this report

## **9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications**

9.1 None arising from this report

## **10 Equality and Diversity Implications**

10.1 None arising from this report

## **11 Social Value Implications**

11.1 None arising from this report

## **12 Partnership Implications**

12.1 None arising from this report

## **13 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

13.1 None arising from this report

## **14 Asset Management Implications**

14.1 None arising from this report

## **15 Data Protection Implications**

15.1 None arising from this report

## **16 Consultation Implications**

16.1 None arising from this report

### **Democratic Path:**

- **Audit and Governance Committee – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

**Reporting Frequency: Annually**

### **List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)**

Appendix A	Local Code of Corporate Governance
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### **Contact Officers**

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