

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: The Assistant Director Finance (S151)
To: Governance and Audit Committee – 26 June 2014
(Author: Mark Finch – Assistant Director Finance (S151))
Subject: Local Code of Corporate Governance
Purpose: To adopt a Local Code of Corporate Governance

Recommendation:

- a) That the Committee adopts the revised Local Code of Governance.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. To this end members and senior officers are responsible for ensuring that proper arrangements exist for the governance of the Council's affairs and stewardship of its resources
- 1.2 The Council has prepared a Local Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with the revised CIPFA/SOLACE guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The code demonstrates the ways in which the Council will achieve good corporate governance.
- 1.3 South Holland's proposed local code is set out in Appendix A. This has been revised to reflect changes to the guidance as well as changes to the way the authority operates. This Committee is requested to review the document to ensure that Members are satisfied that the document accurately reflects the Council's governance arrangements in meeting the core principles set out in the guidance:
- Core Principle 1 - Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area
 - Core Principle 2 – Members and officer working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles
 - Core Principle 3 – Promoting values for the Council and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour
 - Core Principle 4 – Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk
 - Core Principle 5 – Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective
 - Core Principle 6 – Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 To approve the local code.
- 2.2 To approve the local code with amendments.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To meet corporate governance best practice.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 The Local Code of Governance brings all governance practices together into one document and makes them open and explicit.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 Constitution & Legal

5.2.1 This report has been written in line with the Constitution.

5.3 Contracts

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 Corporate Priorities

5.4.1 Robust governance arrangements are an essential element of the delivery of all corporate priorities

5.5 Crime and Disorder

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 Equality and Diversity / Human Rights

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 Financial

5.7.1 Effective corporate governance arrangements ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

5.8 Risk Management

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 Staffing

5.9.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.10 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All wards/communities are affected.

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 CIPFA – Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy

Background papers:- None

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Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting:

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Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Local Code of Governance