

AUDIT AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting date: 30 June 2022

From: Monitoring Officer

LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This report recommends that the committee approves the extension of the existing Local Code of Governance, which is due to expire at the end of this year, until 31 March 2023 when the Council will be dissolved in accordance with the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *The Local Code of Governance is a key document which sets out the framework for ensuring that the Council has a strong governance framework.*
- 2.2 *There are no specific equalities issues arising in relation to the approval of the Local Code of Governance.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 *The Audit and Assurance Committee is recommended to consider the Local Code of Governance as set out in Appendix 1 and agree that it should be extended to 31 March 2023.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Local Authorities operate through a governance framework; a system that brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes.
- 4.2 Each Local Authority is responsible for maintaining its own local governance framework which ensures that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities, that there is sound and inclusive decision making and that there is clear accountability for the use of those

resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

- 4.3 In 2016 CIPFA and SOLACE published a framework, “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework” which defines the principles that should underpin the governance of each local authority and provides a structure to help individual authorities with their approach to governance. CIPFA and Solace provided guidance notes to sit alongside the framework. The Council is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which is issued alongside its accounts which reports on the extent to which they comply with their own code of governance on an annual basis, including how they have monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year and on any planned changes in the coming period.
- 4.4 The Cumbria County Council’s Local Code of Governance 2018-22 which was adopted in 2018 was based on the framework and guidance issued by CIPFA and SOLACE. Each year the Council carries out a review of its governance structures against this framework. The findings of that review are published as the Annual Governance Statement.
- 4.5 The Local Code of Governance is due for review in the current year. A review of the code has been carried out to ensure that it continues to take account of best practice and the most recent guidance and continues to reflect governance arrangements within the Council. That review has not identified any significant changes to the Local Code of Governance. Some minor changes have been identified to reflect current governance arrangements within the Council. These minor changes are marked up on the attached report. It is recommended that the Local Code of Governance as set out in Appendix 1 is extended for the remaining term of the Council.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Council is required to have a Local Code of Governance which sets out the Council’s approach to governance.
- 5.2 The Committee can approve the extension of the Local Code of Governance for the remainder of the Council’s life in the form attached at Appendix 1 or can request amendments to the document.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Audit and Assurance Committee is invited to review and approve the extension of the Local Code of Governance until 31 March 2023.

Catherine A. Parkinson
Interim Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Local Code of Governance 2018-23.

IMPLICATIONS

Staffing: None
Financial: None
Property: None
Electoral Division(s): All

* ***Please remove whichever option is not applicable***

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and the Head of Member Services and Scrutiny has obtained the necessary approvals.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

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