

Non-Executive Report of the: Audit Committee 20/07/2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman, Director of Strategy, Transformation, and Improvement.	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Code of Corporate Governance	

Originating Officer(s)	
Wards affected	All (All Wards);

Executive Summary

The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the Council's commitment to uphold the highest standards of good governance. The Code was first created in 2018 and has been reviewed each year since. This report presents the 2023/24 review version for comment and endorsement by the Committee.

Recommendations:

The Audit Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and comment on the revised Code of Corporate Governance
2. Endorse the Code and agree that it be published on the Council's website.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Code of Corporate Governance forms an important part of the Council's suite of governance controls and documentation.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Code is to set out the framework the Council uses to ensure its governance meets with the good governance principles of the CIPFA/SOLCA guidance. The Annual Governance Statement, presented separately to the Audit Committee, is the method by which the effectiveness of the processes and procedures set out in the Code are evaluated.
- 1.3 The Code is reviewed annually and the Audit Committee is asked to review and endorse the content of the revised Code.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Code has been produced in line with CIPFA best practice, but the Audit Committee is able to propose additions/alterations if considered appropriate. The Committee could also review the general style/layout of the Code and suggest improvements.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council's Annual Governance Statement produced by the Council each year, sets out its view on the effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Governance.
- 3.2 Corporate Governance is defined as the systems, processes and values by which local government bodies are directed and controlled.
- 3.3 One of the key documents consulted when preparing the Annual Governance Statement is the Code of Corporate Governance. The Code sets out the key documents, policies and activities that underpin the Council's work.
- 3.4 It does this by splitting Governance into 7 key themes (listed as A – G in the document) and then setting out against each one the relevant activities and documentation.
- 3.5 The Code of Corporate Governance was first created in 2018 and has been reviewed each year since that date. The Code is also published under the 'Transparency' section of the website.
- 3.6 In undertaking the review, officers from across the Council have been consulted as to the appropriate content of the Code.
- 3.7 The updated Code is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Code of Corporate Governance includes a number of key documents in the Council's work to tackle equalities issues such as the Borough Profile, Equality Analysis work and staff training programmes.
- 4.2 The layout and appearance of the Code for 2023/24 has been adapted to ensure it is accessible in line with public sector accessibility regulations. This means the Code can be read by those using adaptive software or tools (for example, those with impaired vision; motor difficulties; cognitive impairments or learning disabilities; deafness or impaired hearing).

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are

required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 [Report authors should identify any other specific issues relevant to consideration of this report. Including, but not limited to, the issues noted above. This section of the report can also be used to re-emphasise particular issues that Members must have considered before taking the decision (for example issues that may come up if an objection was taken to court). Note – Paragraph 5.1 MUST NOT be deleted.]

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 Robust corporate governance arrangements support strong and effective financial management and effective use of resources. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require a local authority to have a sound system of internal control facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives and ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective. An authority is also required to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance.

7.2 The matters set out in this statement comply with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports
-
- State NONE if none.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - The Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A