

CODE OF GOVERNANCE
(Report by Head of Policy & Strategic Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for members of the panel to consider amendments to the Council's Code of Governance in the light of recently published good practice relating to governance in Local Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Code of Governance was first adopted in September 2003 and reviewed again in the light of changes to arrangements for the preparation of a Statement on Internal Control and consultation initiated by CIPFA/SOLACE. It was identified last year that to ensure the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements it would be necessary to undertake a further review of the Code as a consequence of a new framework to be promulgated by CIPFA/SOLACE. This new framework "Good Governance in Local Government" was published in June 2007.
- 2.2 While the core principles in the original guidance have remained consistent, the new framework suggests a series of supporting principles and specific requirements.
- 2.3 An amended Code which sets out and describes the way in which the Council carries out its functions and complies with the principles of openness, integrity and accountability is attached. The principles apply to elected Members and employees alike, and they are reflected in the Council's working procedures and processes in the interests of establishing and maintaining public confidence. The new Code is consistent with the new framework and represents current good practice.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Panel are recommended to adopt the revised Code

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government published by CIPFA/SOLACE June 2007.

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