

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 21 September 2017 – West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance	
Report No:	CAB/SE/17/050	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	24 October 2017
	Council	20 December 2017
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Stephen Edwards Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance Tel: 01799 530325 Email: stephen.edwards@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Lead Officer:	Rachael Mann Assistant Director (Resources and Performance) Tel: 01638 719245 Email: rachael.mann@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	Following the re-issue of the CIPFA guidance for local authorities, officers have developed a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance (Appendix A). The views of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee were sought on the draft Code, before being presented to Cabinet and to Council for approval.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that, subject to the approval of Council, the West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance, attached as Appendix A to Report No: PAS/FH/17/025, be approved.	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		• See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
Alternative option(s):		• See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025	
Risk/opportunity assessment: <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>			
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
See Report No: PAS/FH/17/025			
Wards affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Key Issues

1.1.1 In 2016, CIPFA / Solace updated their guidance to local authorities on developing their Corporate Governance Frameworks. They strongly advocate the production of a local Code of Corporate Governance, so that local authorities can review and account for their own individual arrangements to effectively discharge their functions, and demonstrate their own compliance with good practice.

1.1.2 The Local Code of Corporate Governance was last produced jointly by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils in 2013. Following the updating of the CIPFA / Solace guidance, it is now time for the Councils to again review their Code, making sure it is effective, transparent and relevant.

1.2 Local Code of Corporate Governance

1.2.1 The Councils' previous Code closely adhered to the principles, and sub-principles contained within the CIPFA framework. Recognising the emphasis within the framework on local arrangements, the revised Code has a greater emphasis on how Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury practically apply the principles and comply with good practice. The Code reiterates our firm commitment to continually review our compliance with good practice, and openly report the outcomes of this work.

1.2.2 In order to produce the proposed draft Code of Corporate Governance, attached at Appendix A, an officer group, including representatives from key services (audit, legal, policy, finance and performance) have reviewed the Councils' existing governance arrangements at a detailed level, and then evaluated how the arrangements should be demonstrated within the local code. The Code has also been assessed by the Council's Leadership Team.

1.3 Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

1.3.1 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee reviewed the revised West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance and has put forward recommendations as set out on page one of this report, where it believes the Code can be strengthened.