

Local Code of Corporate Governance

Report number:	PAS/WS/24/012	
Report to and date(s):	PASC	30 May 2024
	Cabinet	25 June 2024
	Council	16 July 2024
Cabinet member:	Councillor Diane Hind Portfolio Holder Resources and Property Email: diane.hind@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: **This item is not required to be included in the decisions plan.**

Wards impacted: **All wards**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the committee:**

- 1. Consider the updated draft Local Code of Corporate Governance (Appendix 1), making any recommendations before it is submitted to Cabinet and Council for approval.**

1. Context

- 1.1 We are required to develop and maintain an up-to-date local code of corporate governance which sets out the Council's aims to apply the principles of good governance and maintain our commitment through its development, adoption and continued maintenance. We also prepare an annual governance statement (AGS) to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with this code.
- 1.2 The Local Code of Corporate Governance was last produced jointly by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils in 2017 and readopted by West Suffolk Council in 2019. Following the updating of the CIPFA / Solace guidance, it is now time for West Suffolk Council to review that Code, making sure it is effective, transparent and relevant.
- 1.3 Each year, the Council produces an Annual Governance Statement. This is a statutory requirement and is a reflection of how we have complied with our own Code and worked to strengthen our governance arrangements over the previous year.
- 1.4 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) has 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 Leadership Team.
- 1.5 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 Local Code has a greater emphasis on how West Suffolk Council applies 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.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the Code, and, where necessary, identify those areas where it believes that the document can be strengthened, prior to adoption by Council.

3. Consultation and engagement undertaken

- 3.1 The reviewed Code has been considered by Leadership Team

4. Risks associated with the proposals

- 4.1 None

5. Appendices referenced in this report

5.1 Appendix 1 - Local Code of Corporate Governance