

Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 30 May 2024: Local Code of Corporate Governance

Report number:	CAB/WS/24/030	
Report to and dates	Cabinet	9 July 2024
	Council	16 July 2024
Cabinet member:	Councillor Diane Hind Portfolio Holder for Resources Email: diane.hind@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Peter Armitage Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee Email: peter.armitage@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: **The decision made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours. This item will be referred to Council for a final decision and is, therefore, not subject to call-in. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.**

Wards impacted: **All wards**

Recommendation: **That, subject to the approval of Council, the Local Code of Corporate Governance, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report number: PAS/WS/24/012, be approved.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 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 Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) guidance, it is now time for West Suffolk Council to review that Code, making sure it is effective, transparent and relevant.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 In order to produce the proposed draft Code of Corporate Governance, attached at Appendix 1, an officer group, including representatives from key services (audit, legal, policy, finance and performance) has reviewed the Council's 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.
- 1.4 The Council's 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.
- 1.5 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee was 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.
- 1.6 **Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee**
- 1.7 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 30 May 2024, considered the Local Code of Corporate Governance and did not raise any specific issues.
- 1.8 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee has put forward recommendations as set out on page one of this report.

2. Alternative options that have been considered

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. Consultation and engagement undertaken

3.1 Not applicable.

4. Risks associated with the proposals

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Implications arising from the proposals

5.1 Not applicable

6. Appendices referenced in this report

6.1 [PAS/WS/24/012 - Appendix 1 - Local Code of Corporate Governance](#)

7. Background documents associated with this report

7.1 Report number: [PAS/WS/24/012](#)