

# Referrals report of recommendations from Cabinet

<b>Report number:</b>	<b>COU/WS/24/010</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Council</b>	16 July 2024
<b>Documents attached:</b>	<b>None</b>	

## A. Referrals from Cabinet: 21 May 2024

There are no referrals emanating from the meeting of Cabinet held on 21 May 2024.

## B. Referrals from Cabinet: 9 July 2024

This referral has been compiled before the decision has been taken by the Cabinet and is based on the recommendation contained within the report listed below. Any amendments made by the Cabinet to the recommendation within the report will be notified to members in advance of the meeting accordingly.

### 1. Local Code of Corporate Governance

**Portfolio holder:** Councillor Diane Hind

**Cabinet Report number:** [CAB/WS/24/030](#)

**Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee Report number:** [PAS/WS/24/012](#)

**Appendix 1** [Local Code of Corporate Governance](#)

#### **Recommended:**

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

- 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 On 30 May 2024, 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. No issues were raised by the Committee.
- 1.6 On 9 July 2024, the Cabinet will consider the recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, as reproduced above and this is also referred to Council for final approval.

Additional note: This Council agenda has been published prior to the Cabinet meeting being convened on 9 July 2024. It has been proposed by the Leader of the Council, that on 9 July 2024, Cabinet will be recommended to agree the referral of the matters listed at items 8. to 10. of this Council agenda, without debate, to Council, as set out in Report number: CAB/WS/24/028.