

Audit Committee – 27th August 2009

8. Local Code of Corporate Governance

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Purpose of the Report

This report outlines the updates made to the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Audit Committee approves the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance (attached at pages 12-27);
- (2) that the making of any future changes to job titles be delegated to the Head of Finance.

Background

The Local Code of Corporate Governance was last updated in 2008 to take into account the revised guidance from Solace (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) /CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) on the framework for delivering good governance in local government.

The revised guidance outlined that to comply with the principles of corporate governance it is important to ensure that compliance is reflected in each dimension of the Council's business. The dimensions are defined as:

- Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
- Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
- Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
- Taking informed and transparent decisions, which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
- Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.
- Engaging the local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

The Local Code of Corporate Governance shows how SSDC can demonstrate compliance within these dimensions and therefore it can support the annual Governance Report. At the end of the financial year the authority must produce a Governance Report with the evidence of how it is meeting the code and its internal controls and processes. The local code will be assessed and an action plan will be put in place for any improvements required and this will be monitored through the Audit Committee.

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Report

The attached revised code is updated for the following:

- The revised Corporate Plan for 2009-2012;
- Revised evidence to show compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: *Local Code of Corporate Governance*