

SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2022
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	PAT JUKES, BUSINESS MANAGER CORPORATE POLICY

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Audit Committee of the outcome of the annual review of the Code of Corporate Governance January 2022.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 City of Lincoln Council adopted a new Code of Corporate Governance in March 2017, agreeing to review this annually to ensure it remains current.
- 2.2 A decision was taken in 2021 to complete a significant review to simplify the format of the code whilst still being able to provide all of the information, but in an easier and accessible format. Neither this format, nor any of the key content has been changed, the only changes are minor wording changes to reflect ongoing Covid-19 management

3 Main Body of Report

- 3.1 City of Lincoln Council must ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. It also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure continuous improvement in the way our functions are exercised, having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 3.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the council must put in place proper governance arrangements for our affairs.
- 3.3 A new code consistent with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government was approved by Executive Committee in March 2017, with an agreed annual review.
- 3.4 Internal Audit and Corporate Policy undertook a full assessment of the council's governance framework commencing March 2021 through a review of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance (policies and processes) and its use in the review process to develop the AGS to identify any significant issues, or other areas that may require monitoring.
- 3.5 These changes were incorporated into the code as part of that review and a lighter touch review this year has revealed that apart from minor wording changes to reflect that Covid-19 activities are still ongoing, there were no further changes required (**See Appendix A**). It is proposed the next review should be in Feb 2023.

4 Strategic Priorities

- 4.1. Vision 2025 and the vision, priorities and core values contained within it form a part of the Code of Corporate Governance.

5 Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

The Code identifies procedures in place to ensure compliance with legislation and reduce risk as well as adhere to the Financial Management Code.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Code of Corporate Governance identifies processes in place to ensure compliance with legislation and reduce risk.

5.3 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

The Code of Corporate Governance identifies processes are in place to ensure compliance with E&D legislation and reduce risk.

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 That Audit Committee notes the review has taken place with no significant changes made and agrees to the next annual review date of February 2023.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

One – Appendix A

List of Background Papers:

None

Lead Officer:

Pat Jukes, Business Manager, Corporate Policy