

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</b>
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LEGAL &amp; GOVERNANCE</b>

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	Executive Director Enabling Services	
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#### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not applicable

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The Local Code of Corporate Governance ('CCG') sets out the commitment of Southampton City Council to continue to uphold the highest possible standards of good governance. The CCG has been subject to annual light touch review as part of the review of the Constitution however it is appropriate for the updated document to be presented to the Governance Committee periodically for formal review and approval.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	To note and approve the updated draft 2025 Local Code of Corporate Governance (Appendix 1).
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#### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	The Governance Committee has responsibility for leading on all aspects of Corporate Governance by promoting the values of putting people first, valuing public service and creating a norm of the highest standards of personal conduct.
2.	The Governance Committee is also responsible for receiving regular reports on the performance of the Corporate Complaints process, Local Government Ombudsman referrals, Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance and to recommend revisions to related policies and procedures as appropriate.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3.	No alternative options have been considered as this is a core governance requirement.
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#### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

4.	Corporate governance comprises the systems, processes, values and cultures by which councils are directed and controlled and through which they are accountable to and engage with and, where appropriate, lead their
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	communities. The CCG sets out the commitment of Southampton City Council to continue to uphold the highest possible standards of good governance.
5.	The council's CCG is based on the CIPFA 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (CIPFA/Solace, 2016)' which is a best practice framework for developing and maintaining a locally adopted code of governance. The current version of the council's CCG has, however, been refreshed and updated to ensure that it remains both current and aligned with good practice. Each year the council publishes an Annual Governance Statement which explains and assesses how it has complied with the CCG and provides details of how continual improvement in the system of internal control will be achieved.
6.	The CCG has been subject to annual light touch review by the Director of Legal & Governance however periodically it is appropriate for the document to be presented to the Governance Committee for formal review and approval. The version currently published on the council's website is dated April 2023 although the last formal review of the CCG by the Governance Committee was in May 2019. The main updates to the document are the explicit reference to both the seven core principles of good governance and the Standards in Public Life (Nolan Principles) together with the inclusion of a paragraph regarding the 'Responsibilities for Corporate Governance'.
7.	These updates have been informed by a review of peer authority CCGs with the vast majority following a very similar format, which is reflected in the updated CCG. The review looked at published information on the respective council websites of 16 unitary authorities and 2 county councils noting that a third of the council's reviewed did not overtly publish their CCG and in one case the published link to the CCG did not work.
8.	The draft CCG was presented to and reviewed by the council's Management Board on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.
9.	Subject to the CCG being approved by the Governance Committee it will then be published on the Council's website. As before, the Director of Legal & Governance will review and, where necessary, update the CCG on an annual basis and will present any significant changes to the Governance Committee for review and approval.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
10.	None
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
11.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
12.	The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to adopt good governance arrangements in respect of the discharge of its functions. The above arrangements are intended to meet those responsibilities.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	

	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	There are no direct risk management implications however good governance supports the effective management of both operational and organisational risk.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	None

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	Not applicable
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Updated draft 2025 Local Code of Corporate Governance

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	Not applicable
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
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**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	
2.	