

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 June 2020	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Review of code of corporate governance	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Law and Democracy	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the updated code of corporate governance as shown at appendix 1.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee review the council's compliance with the best practice governance framework as shown at appendix 2 and consider whether it would wish to add any further examples of relevant good practice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The council's code of corporate governance was approved in May 2017 and was last refreshed in November 2018. It is therefore timely to review it and amend as needed, to ensure that it remains current. It is also appropriate to review the council's compliance with its governance framework.
4. The proposed updated code and the review document setting out the council's compliance with the best practice framework have been considered by the corporate governance panel and their comments have been taken on board.
5. Changes made to the code are highlighted in red in appendix 1 with underlining and striking through to denote new text and deleted text respectively.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The majority of changes reflect revised terminology or aim to provide clarity but changes have also been made to reflect the replacement of community councils with community champions and area based meetings and the establishment of scrutiny commissions.
7. A comparison of the council's governance arrangements with the CIPFA/SOLACE framework was last carried out in May 2017. This has been reviewed and updated where needed, as shown in appendix 2. For example, terminology has been updated and reference made to the Investors in People reaccreditation in 2018 and the approval of the Fairer Future Procurement Framework in June 2019.
8. The committee is asked to consider whether it is aware of any further examples of systems, processes or other evidence demonstrating compliance which could be included in the review document.

Policy implications

9. There are no policy implications in the proposals in this report.

Community impact statement

10. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant impact on any particular community or group.

Resource implications

11. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Code of corporate governance - Southwark Council website	https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/how-we-work/code-of-corporate-governance	

APPENDICES

No.	Title
1	Code of corporate governance
2	Review of Southwark Council's governance framework against CIPFA/SOLACE Framework January 2020

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy	
Report Author	Jo Anson, Head of Financial and Information Governance	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 May 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	12 May 2020	