

Report of the Head of Corporate Assurance

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24th January 2024

Local Code of Corporate Governance

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider the Local Code of Corporate Governance which is included at Appendix One of this report. This code was substantially updated in 2020 and was approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2020.
- 1.2 The Code has been reviewed and continues to reflect the corporate position.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider the Local Code of Corporate Governance, recommending it to Cabinet for approval and publication on the Council's website.**

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Local Code of Corporate Governance is the overall statement of the Council's corporate governance principles and commitments.
- 3.2 Whilst there is no legal or statutory requirement for a Council to have a Local Code of Corporate Governance, it is good practice to have one and publish it to demonstrate the Council's commitment to high standards of corporate governance.
- 3.3 The Local Code of Corporate Governance has been reviewed and some minor amendments made to reflect changes to Board and Committee titles. The Code will be published on the Council's website as part of a developing suite of governance documents which will include the Annual Governance Review Process and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.4 The Code has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework" (2016) – which sets out the standards for local authority governance in the UK.
- 3.5 Sections 1 - 4 of the Code outline:
 - An introduction to delivering good governance.
 - How this is monitored and reviewed.
 - A signed certification of the Code by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive – acknowledging their commitment to the Code and the Council's governance arrangements.
 - An overview of the governance structure and responsibilities across the Council.

3.7 Appendix A of the Local Code of Corporate Governance focuses on the 7 principles of corporate governance and, alongside each principle, details of Barnsley's commitment to achieving good governance in practice are outlined.

Appendix:

Appendix One – Local Code of Corporate Governance

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Date: 12th January 2024