

Report of the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 July 2020

Local Code of Corporate Governance

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance attached as Appendix One to this report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Audit Committee is asked to consider and approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance and its publication on the BMBC 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 existing Local Code of Corporate Governance published on the Council's website is dated 2016/17 and the links and references within it are now largely out of date. The document is not easy to read, it is repetitive and difficult to find as it is embedded within an Audit Committee Report dated March 2017.
- 3.4 The Local Code of Corporate Governance has therefore been reviewed and revised and the intention is that it will be published as part of a developing suite of governance documents which will include the Annual Governance Review Process and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.5 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
- 3.6 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 Councils governance arrangements
- An overview of the governance structure and responsibilities across Barnsley 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.

Appendices:

Appendix One – Local Code of Corporate Governance

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Date: 14 July 2020