

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2023/24

Executive Summary	<p>The Corporate Governance framework is made up of the systems and processes, culture and values by which an organisation is directed and controlled. For local authorities this includes how a Council relates to the community it serves. The Local Code of Corporate Governance is a public statement of the ways in which the Council will achieve good corporate governance.</p> <p>This is based on the development of the ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework’ (2016) produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and focusses on the seven core principles and sub principles of good governance. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is prepared following a review of all the evidence available to the Council in seeking compliance with its Local Code.</p>
Options considered	None – this is a statement for review and approval
Consultation(s)	Policy and Performance Manager; S.151 and Monitoring Officer
Recommendations	Members are asked to review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) along with the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance.
Reasons for recommendations	To review and record the Council’s Governance.
Background papers	None

Wards affected	All
Cabinet member(s)	Cllr Adams and Cllr Shires
Contact Officer	Tina Stankley Director of Resources Tina.stankley@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Links to key documents:

Corporate Plan:	<p>A Strong, Responsible and Accountable Council</p> <p>Effective and efficient delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing our finances and contracts robustly to ensure best value for money • Ensuring that strong governance is at the heart of all we do
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Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Governance report not specifically linked to MTFS
Council Policies & Strategies	None

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	Public report.
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	Annual Governance Report – made yearly to the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 Attached to this report is The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2023/24 (Appendix A) for discussion by the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee.

2. Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

- 2.1 This Annual Governance Statement provides assurances as to the in-year operation of the risk and governance arrangements adopted by the Council. It is prepared after reviewing all of the evidence available to the GRAC, the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, Management Team, Head of Internal Audit, external audit and the statutory officers of the Council.
- 2.2 The AGS sets out how the Council ensures that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, effectively and efficiently in the delivery of its services.
- 2.3 North Norfolk District Council has adopted its own Local Code of Corporate Governance, which supports this AGS. The Local Code is compliant with the recommendations of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' as updated for 2016.
- 2.4 The AGS is signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. The GRAC are asked to consider and approve the draft report as attached.

3. Review of Effectiveness

- 3.1 The Council is committed to a sound system of Governance that reflects:
- openness, accountability and integrity
 - compliance with laws, policies and regulations
 - the identification and monitoring of all strategic and operational risks

3.2 The key document for the Council is the Corporate Plan. The risks to its achievement are outlined in the comprehensive risk registers maintained by the Authority.

3.3 The review of the Governance arrangements is undertaken through several mechanisms including the report from the Head of Internal Audit and the Corporate Leadership Team and Management Team's Self-Assessment Assurance Statements as well as the various inspection regimes undertaken by the External Auditors, all of which feed into and support the overall review.

4. Corporate Priorities

4.1 A Strong, Responsible and Accountable Council

Effective and Efficient Delivery

- Managing our finances and contracts robustly to ensure best value for money.
- Ensuring that strong governance is at the heart of all we do

5. Financial and Resource Implications

There are no specific financial or staffing implications.

Comments from the S151 Officer

No financial consequences as a result of the contents of this report.

6. Legal Implications

Comments from the Monitoring Officer

This is the Annual Governance Statement detailing how the Council conducts its business in accordance with the law and necessary standards.

7. Risks

7.1 The report outlines the ways that the Council acts to comply with the law and necessary standards. Failure to approve the Statement risks that the Council may not have a written document to inform of the processes and standards expected.

8. Net Zero Target

8.1 No specific Net Zero considerations

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

9.1 No particular considerations

10. Community Safety issues

10.1 None

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

11.1 The arrangements set out within the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance and the AGS will allow the Council to move forward with its corporate planning processes and remain confident that it can address the issues of governance and risk.

11.2 **Members are asked to review and approve the AGS**