

Report to Audit Committee

Local Code of Corporate Governance

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Resources

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Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to propose a refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance for Oldham Council.

Executive Summary

The Council is required to produce a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is subject to review every two years at a minimum or when there have been changes to Governance Standards. Oldham Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed and presented to the Audit Committee on 9 June 2022.

A refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance is presented for review at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

The Committee notes the refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance for Oldham Council.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

1.1 In order to assist with complying with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which requires the annual production of an Annual Governance Statement, the Council is required to produce a Local Code of Corporate Governance.

1.2 This Code is to be reviewed every two years at a minimum or sooner if there are changes to the Governance Standards. It was last reviewed and presented to the Audit Committee on 9 June 2022. The Code reflects the seven principles of the Governance Framework introduced in 2016/17. The changes detailed reflect the need to remove reference to the temporary revisions in the Accounts and Audit Regulations introduced during the COVID pandemic and the change in the External Audit Manager with effect from the start of the 2023/24 financial year.

1.3 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management, in conjunction with the Director of Finance, review the Code on a regular basis whilst also monitoring the progress made by the Authority on complying with its policies and procedures to ensure best practice.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 The Audit Committee can either:

- a) Consider and accept the refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- b) Consider but not accept the refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance and suggest an alternative approach.

3 Preferred Option

3.1 The preferred option is that the Audit Committee accepts and notes the refreshed Local Code of Corporate Governance for Oldham Council.

4 Consultation

4.1 N/A.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 N/A.

6 Legal Services Comments

6.1 N/A.

7 Cooperative Agenda

7.1 N/A.

8 Human Resources Comments

8.1 N/A.

9 **Risk Assessments**

9.1 N/A.

10 **IT Implications**

10.1 N/A.

11 **Property Implications**

11.1 N/A.

12 **Procurement Implications**

12.1 N/A.

13 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

13.1 N/A.

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

14.1 N/A.

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

15.1 N/A.

16 **Key Decision**

16.1 N/A.

17 **Forward Plan Reference**

17.1 N/A.

18 **Background Papers**

18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref: Background papers are included at Appendix 1
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19 **Appendices**

19.1 Appendix 1 Local Code of Corporate Governance.