
Report to Audit Committee

Local Code of Corporate Governance

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

Officer Contact: John Miller, Head of Audit and Counter Fraud

Report Author: John Miller, Head of Audit and Counter Fraud

27 June 2024

Reason for Decision

The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference state that:

4.4.2 The Audit Committee shall, having regard to the CIPFA 'audit committee' guidance:-

c) undertake the following activities in respect of corporate governance – (i) approve the local code of corporate governance;

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 or when there have been changes to Governance Standards. Oldham Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance was last reviewed by the Audit Committee on 8 June 2023.

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 or sooner if there are changes to the Governance Standards. It was last reviewed by the Audit Committee on 8 June 2023. The Code reflects the seven principles of the Governance Framework introduced in 2016/17.

1.3 The Director of Finance reviews 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

Officer Name: John Miller

Contact: john.miller@oldham.gov.uk

19 **Appendices**

19.1 Appendix 1 Local Code of Corporate Governance.