

 <b>EXECUTIVE 2 DECEMBER 2015</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 4</b>
<b>Title</b>	Code of Corporate Governance	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Richard Barr Tel: (01926) 456815 E Mail: richard.barr@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Minutes of Senior Management Team	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No (N/A: no direct service implications)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	April 2015	Chris Elliott / Andrew Jones
CMT	April 2015	CMT
Head of Service	18 Nov 2015	SMT
Section 151 Officer	April 2015	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	April 2015	Andrew Jones
Finance	April 2015	As S151 Officer
Portfolio Holder(s)	11 Nov 2015	Councillor Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
The Trade Unions have been Consulted.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council's Code of Corporate Governance has been revised. It is presented to Executive for approval, following which it will be adopted.

## **1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Executive recommends to the Council the adoption of the Code of Corporate Governance, as part of the Constitution.

## **3 REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is protected, accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 3.2 In discharging this responsibility, members and officers have a duty to set in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs and stewardship of the public reserves at its disposals. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to ensure continuous improvement in the way it does things, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 3.3 A Code of Corporate Governance helps to ensure that the Council conducts its business properly and aids the process of continuous improvement.

## **4 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Code of Corporate Governance will, in effect, be one of the Council's key policies. It will help to establish a strong governance framework that will enable the Council to "do the right things, in the right way, and at the right time", thereby helping the Council to deliver its objectives.
- 4.2 A strong governance framework is part of Fit for the Future within our overall corporate strategy.

## **5 BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 Although there are no direct budgetary implications arising from this report, an effective governance framework ensures that the Authority manages its resources and achieves its objectives economically, efficiently and effectively.

## **6 RISKS**

- 6.1 A strong corporate governance framework helps to deliver robust risk management.

## **7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 This report is not concerned with recommending a particular option in preference to others so this section is not applicable.

## 8 **BACKGROUND**

- 8.1 Governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes and cultures and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities.
- 8.2 It involves effective leadership and high standards of behaviour and comprises a culture based on openness and honesty and an external focus on the needs of service users and the public.
- 8.3 Corporate Governance as a subject came to prominence in the early 1990s following several major financial scandals.
- 8.4 In 1995 The Committee on Standards in Public Life identified the seven principles of public life that apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes people who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally. The seven principles, known as 'The Nolan Principles' after the then Chair of the committee, Lord Nolan, are: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Three others were added, much later, to the list: respect for others, duty to uphold the law and stewardship (using resources prudently).
- 8.5 In 2012 CIPFA & SOLACE produced an updated guidance and framework document with the principles that should underpin the governance of each local authority, together with guidance on a structured approach to assist individual authorities to achieve good governance.
- 8.6 The Council's Code of Corporate Governance provides detailed information on how the Council ensures these corporate governance principles are adhered to.
- 8.7 In common with other local authorities the Council has had a Code of Corporate Governance for many years. The need for it to be updated arose from the review of the Council's governance arrangements that was undertaken as part of the production of the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15. It was felt that the Code needed to be updated to reflect changes in the governance environment such as organisational culture.
- 8.8 The revised Code of Corporate Governance is set out as the appendix to this report.