

**REPORT OF**     **Service Improvement Officer**  
**To:**             **Audit and Governance Committee**  
**Subject:**       **Code of Governance**  
**Date:**           **21<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

It is necessary for the Council to carry out an annual review its Corporate Governance arrangements. A revised Code of Governance is attached for consideration.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) requires the Council to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its Code of Corporate Governance each year which is reported in the Annual Governance Statement.

**2. REPORT**

The Code of Corporate Governance is derived from work undertaken by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Service – a commission set up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Office for Public Management.

Under the 2016 Governance Framework, CIPFA recommends that all local government bodies develop a local code of governance. The local code sets out how the authority's governance arrangements work towards meeting the seven principles of good governance, as set out in the Framework.

The seven core principles are:

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

**3. IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Implications

There is a legal requirement as part of approval of the annual statement of accounts.

Financial Implications

None.



Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment was prepared for the original Code of Governance.

Risk Management

There is a reputational risk to the council if this is not done.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Approval and adoption of the Code of Governance is a key aspect of demonstrating that Torridge District Council has a formal and established response to the Corporate Governance requirements.

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

The Code of Governance is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee for approval and is reported in the Annual Governance Statement.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the reviewed Code of Governance be approved.

