

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Combined Authority
Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting: 28 July 2021

Authority/Authorities Affected: None

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the updated Code of Corporate Governance for the approval of the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee:

- (a) Approves the updated Code of Corporate Governance.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 So as to support the Committee in the discharge of its duties according to its Terms of Reference, this report details the organisation's Code of Corporate Governance, which has been reviewed and updated.

3.2 The Code of Corporate Governance is a key document in providing guidance to officers and members in all matters of governance. The document includes:

- Details of the seven Principles of Public Life – known as the Nolan Principles, explaining what these are and what these mean for public servants;
- Details of the organisation's responsibilities under the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" (CIPFA, 2016), which is the key document for good governance in the sector; and
- Providing evidence of how the organisation meets these responsibilities, by highlighting the key policies, procedures, systems and processes that support this.

- 3.3 The document has been updated to include evidence to detail the governance arrangements the organisation has in place to comply with the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance, which has arisen from the Internal Audit review of governance which informs the Annual Governance Statements for the LCRCA and Merseytravel for 2020-21. For ease of review, the updated areas have been highlighted in yellow.
- 3.4 Once the document has been approved, it will be disseminated to all staff so that they are aware of the principles and their personal governance responsibilities.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.5 Programme Management Office (PMO)

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

The maintenance of an effective system of corporate governance is essential to ensuring that a number of key governance and reputational risks are managed, so that the organisation can demonstrate delivery of its priorities in a manner consistent with the Nolan principles. The presence and regular update of the Code of Corporate Governance is a key part of managing these risks.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

7. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION

The regular review and update, and subsequent publication to all staff, of the Code of Corporate Governance is a key method of promoting good governance in the organisation.

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Appendices:

Appendix A – Code of Corporate Governance

Background Documents:

None