

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**1. Introduction**

1.1 This document is based on the guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ('CIPFA') and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives ('SOLACE'). It sets out the Council's approach to Corporate Governance, which has been defined as:

"The way the Council directs and controls its functions and relates to its community."

1.2 In order to have good corporate governance we must demonstrate strength in the following principles, as defined by CIPFA/SOLACE:

- **Openness and inclusivity** — to ensure that stakeholders have confidence in the decision making and management processes of the authority, by conducting genuine consultation, providing access to full, accurate and clear information.
- **Integrity** — to have high standards of propriety and probity within our processes and high personal standards of professionalism of members and officers.
- **Accountability** — to make members and officers responsible for their decisions and actions, including stewardship of public funds and all aspects of performance.
- **Leadership** — to provide a vision for the community and leading by example.

2. The Five Elements of the Council's business

2.1 The Council provides many different services and undertakes many different functions. There are five fundamental elements which underpin all of these services and functions. These have been defined by CIPFA/SOLACE as:

- **Community Focus** — working for and with the community, promoting wellbeing of the Borough.
- **Service Delivery** — in delivering our services we seek continuous improvement and the translation of policies into action in an effective and efficient manner.
- **Structures and Processes** — having effective political and managerial structures and processes to govern decision making.
- **Risk Management and Internal Control** — establishing and maintaining a strategy, framework and processes for managing the risk.
- **Standards of Conduct** — establishing high standards of integrity, accountability and openness amongst all our members, staff and agents and in all our dealings.

- ~~3. The Council will ensure that the principles of openness, inclusivity, integrity, accountability and strong leadership will be present in all five elements of our business.~~
- ~~4. The Council has produced a framework by which it can assess its compliance with recognised good corporate governance arrangements. This framework sets out the criteria for good corporate governance under each of the five elements detailed above. It shows how the Council is complying with the requirements and what it intends to do to where compliance has not yet been achieved.~~

