

AM 625/22

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 MARCH 2022

UPDATE TO THE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report by: Nigel Stone, Head of Resources and Rosalind Alderman, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Summary

1.1 As Members will know, the Authority must prepare and publish an annual governance statement in order to fulfil statutory requirements to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control. The annual governance statement is prepared in accordance with a local Code of Corporate Governance, which in turn should be consistent with the principles in the governance framework entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' issued by CIPFA and SOLACE (the 'Framework'). As Members will know, CIPFA is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, a UK-based international accountancy membership and standard-setting body, and SOLACE is the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers, the representative body for senior strategic managers working in the public sector.

1.2 The framework explains that it is up to each authority to set out its commitment to the seven core principles of corporate governance detailed in the guidance, and to determine its own governance structure/local code underpinned by these principles. The core principles are:

- behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law;
- ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
- defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits;
- determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
- developing the authority's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and individuals within it;
- managing risks and performance through robust internal controls and strong public finance management; and
- implementing good practice in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

1.3 This report recommends that Members resolve to adopt the updated Code of Corporate Governance attached at **Annex 1**, which is based on the Framework, with immediate effect.

Recommendation:

That Members adopt the revised Code of Corporate Governance attached at Annex 1 with immediate effect

Contact: **Nigel Stone** nigel.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk
 Rosalind Alderman rosalind.alderman@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Papers: **AM 625/22** – cover paper

Annex 1 – Code of Corporate Governance (March 2022)