

**Barrow Borough Council**  
**Audit and Governance Committee**  
**28 July 2022**  
**Local Code of Corporate Governance**

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**Report from:** Director of Resources

**Report Author:** Debbie Storr

**Wards:** (All Wards);

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**1.0 Summary and Conclusions**

1.1 To provide Members with an update of the Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2022/23 following an annual review.

**2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 **It is recommended that Audit and Governance Committee consider and approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

3.1 Local Authorities should have in place an effective system of internal control. The Code is designed to define how the Council will aim to deliver good governance throughout its activities and operations.

3.2 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council is required to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control. It assesses the actual achievement of these aims through the production of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. This is a separate mandatory document which is issued with the annual financial statements and signed by those charged with delivering good governance

3.3 CIPFA publish a governance framework for local authorities which provides a shared understanding of what constitutes good governance in the public sector.

3.4 The Local Code of Governance represents a key component of the Council's governance arrangements and applies to all Council members, officers, partners and stakeholders in their dealings with the Council. Although the core principles have not changed there have been some improvements that have been introduced in the last year and these have been incorporated into the code.

3.5 The Code has been circulated to members of Management Team and Internal Audit for input, and the Audit and Governance Committee is invited to consider and endorse the code.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 Officers have reviewed the existing Local Code of Governance and the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 The Committee could decide not to endorse the code, but the Council is required to have appropriate governance controls in place and this forms part of a suite of documents which are regularly reviewed by the Council and any amendments should comply with best practice and the legislative framework.

#### **6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities**

6.1 Good governance and decision making underpins the delivery of the Council Plan and its objectives.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement**

7.1.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

##### **7.2 Legal**

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Local Code of Governance gives a framework to ensure the Council acts lawfully at all times.

##### **7.3 Local Government Reorganisation**

7.3.1 There are no issues to raise. Future codes will be subject of consideration by the new Westmorland and Furness Council.

##### **7.4 Equality and Diversity**

7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – there are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **Risk**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls required</b>
Local Code not prepared in line with proper practice	Potential gaps in systems of internal control	Regular review of the code, annual review of effectiveness based on CIPFA framework
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls required</b>
Weaknesses identified in the Annual Governance	Non compliance with Local Code and possible	Regulation monitoring and review to ensure

Statement are not adequately addressed	loss of public confidence in how Council conducts its business	progress made and weaknesses identified and acted upon
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**Contact Officers**

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**Appendices Attached to this Report**

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Local Code of Corporate Governance 2022/23

**Background Documents Available**

Name of Background document	Where it is available
1 Previous code of Corporate Governance Reports	<i>www.barrowbc.gov.uk</i>