

8. CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (JS)

1. Purpose of the report

This report asks Members to approve the proposed Code of Corporate Governance

2. Recommendations

- 1. To approve the Code of Corporate Governance set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. To authorise the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Chair of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee to make minor changes to the code each year following the publication of the Annual Governance Statement.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. A code helps us:

- To develop a frame work for Corporate Governance for the National Park Authority based on good practice and external guidance
- To demonstrate compliance with the principles of good governance
- To continuously improve our effectiveness through an annual review of performance against the framework with an action plan to address weaknesses
- To feed the results of the above into the Annual Governance Statement

4. The Code will make a significant contribution to cornerstone 3 as it is the framework to show that we develop and maintain appropriate standards of corporate governance and contributes to the evidence given to the Auditors when they assess the effectiveness of our governance arrangements.”

Background Information

- 5. On 22 May 2009 the Authority approved a Code of Corporate Governance produced according to guidance set out in “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government” which was published by CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)/SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) in 2007.**
- 6. Since 2009 the Authority has reviewed its performance against the Code of Corporate Governance each year and in doing this it has reviewed the effectiveness of its governance arrangements including the system of internal controls. The results of this annual review have been used to feed into the Authority’s Annual Governance Statement. To meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 each year the Authority must prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with the Framework published by CIPFA/SOLACE.**

Proposals

- 7. Since 2009, as part of the annual review, the Code has been updated under delegation to reflect issues identified during the review along with organisational changes, new guidance and best practice. However in April 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE issued a new Framework document which places a greater emphasis on the attainment of sustainable**

economic, societal, and environmental outcomes as a key focus of governance processes and structures. As the changes needed to reflect the change of focus are outside of the existing delegation, the Authority are asked to approve a new Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix 1.

8. The revised Code will be used to prepare the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement which is due to be published in May this year.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

9. There are no additional financial implications to consider. The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on the Code.

Risk Management:

10. There are no issues to highlight other than already in the proposed Code. Having a Code in place, implementing it and reviewing action each year helps us to follow good practice and reduces the risk of failing to address any weaknesses in our corporate governance arrangements

Sustainability:

11. The new Framework the requires the Authority to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and the need to focus on the long term by making sure that the Authority takes account of the impact of current decisions and actions on future generations.

Equality:

12. There are no issues to highlight other than already in the proposed Code.

13. **Background papers (not previously published)**

None

14. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Code of Corporate Governance

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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