

Report to: Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: **Revised Code of Corporate Governance**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

1.1 To advise the Committee on revisions to the Code of Corporate Governance and an associated timeline for this work.

2. Information

1.1 West Yorkshire Combined Authority has previously approved each year a Code of Corporate Governance ('the Code'). This follows the guidance set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) with regard to the governance principles that all public authorities should define and against which they should then hold themselves to account.

1.2 Following the creation of the mayoral combined authority amendments were made to the existing guidance to reflect the extent of governance changes arising. This was approved at the Combined Authority Annual Meeting in June 2022, and a copy is included as **appendix 1**.

1.3 The Combined Authority is committed to meeting the principles set out in the Code, and it is the and responsibility of the Governance and Audit Committee to keep corporate governance matters under review. As part of this process the Committee undertakes regular reviews throughout the year with a formal review at the year end of the processes and systems in place during the year.

1.4 Owing to the progress of the Organisational Evolution work to review the organisation's structure, operating model and ways of working it is proposed that any such review of the Code is paused until such time that the evolution work is sufficiently complete.

1.5 The evolution programme is grounded in a shift away from the current 'process' based model towards an 'outcome/mission' based model, giving greater transparency of senior accountability across key areas and a greater read across from job roles to key performance outcomes for West Yorkshire. There are therefore clear links to corporate governance, accountability, transparency and delivery of value for money in public spend.

1.6 It is anticipated that the evolution programme will have progressed to a sufficient point by summer 2023, following which a review of the Code in alignment with the shift in operating model could reasonably be carried out to ensure alignment.

1.7 The Committee are asked to endorse this timeline to review and note that findings will be brought to the Committee for consideration in due course.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1. There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1. There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1. There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1. There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1. That the Committee endorses the proposal to review the Code of Corporate Governance in line with the progression of the Organisational Evolution programme.

11. Background Documents

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Code and Framework