

Audit and Standards Committee

15 July 2021

Code of Corporate Governance

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
<i>Reason why exempt:</i>	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Governance
Funding Stream:	Not applicable
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Executive Summary

This paper presents a revised Code of Corporate Governance which reflects the findings of the Annual Governance Review conducted in June 2021.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

This paper and the revised Code of Corporate Governance will provide assurance to the businesses and people of South Yorkshire that the MCA and LEP is committed to good governance and that the outcomes, or the results of our activity, are defined and achieved and that the MCA Executive Team are accountable, open and transparent in the way it operates.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the revised Code of Corporate Governance (appendix A).

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

Forthcoming Mayoral Combined Authority Board

26 July 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 The scope of the Authority's governance and internal control framework spans the whole of the organisation's activities and, as recommended in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016, is described in the Authority's local Code of Corporate Governance.
- 1.2 This Code stands as the overall statement of the Authority's and Local Enterprise Partnership corporate governance principles and commitment. The Code demonstrates that the governance arrangements comply with the core and sub-principles contained in the Framework.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 In line with a commitment to review the Code of Corporate Governance annually, the Code has been reviewed, proposed amendments are shown as tracked changes in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Summary of proposed changes:
 - a) Paragraphs have been numbered throughout for ease of referencing.
 - b) Page numbers have been added to the document for ease of referencing.
 - c) In view of the MCA Board's approval to rename the MCA to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in June 2021, all references to Sheffield City Region MCA have been removed.

It is proposed that a number of commitments are strengthened or amended as follows:

- d) Para 3.6: "Reports of any breaches or potential breaches will be fully investigated by the MCA's internal audit partners." has been added to the end of the paragraph.
- e) Para 3.8: The sentence lengthened with the addition of "through the strategically aligned investment of gainshare monies and using the additional borrowing powers derived from the devolution deal."
- f) Para 4.3: An additional bullet point has been added, specifically the 2nd bullet point, stating "Ensure that the views and experiences of communities and businesses of South Yorkshire are taken into account when developing strategic documentation and planning schemes, projects or programmes".
- g) Para 5.1: The paragraph now commences with "The authority's corporate plan is built around the objectives of building a stronger, greener and fairer City Region; both the authority ..."
- h) Para 5.2: The 4th bullet point has been changed with the addition of "at the earliest possible opportunity" and now reads as "Appraise schemes seeking investment against a robust set of criteria that consider and balance the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans at *the earliest possible opportunity*, where appropriate"
- i) Para 7.2: New bullet points, specifically, the 2nd and 3rd bullet points:
 - a. Has in place a robust recruitment and selection process from which

- successful candidates proceed to the completion of induction training.
- b. Provides opportunities for Members and Officers to enhance and strengthen their knowledge and skills, in relation to their strategic roles, by providing training and development opportunities as necessary

j) Para 8.2: The 10th bullet point has been updated and strengthened (see bold/italic text) and now reads: Ensures ***secure, robust*** and effective arrangements are in place regarding ***the processing of data (including personal data), this includes (but is not limited to) mandatory GDPR and Data Protection training for all Officers.***

2.3 The revised Code of Corporate Governance will be presented to the Mayoral Combined Authority Board for approval.

3. Consultation on Proposal

3.1 The Annual Governance Review process, which has involved MCA officers, members of the senior management team and Statutory Officers has informed the proposed changes to the Code of Corporate Governance.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:

4.1 The revised Code of Corporate Governance will be considered at the Combined Authority meeting 26th July. If endorsed, it will be adopted with immediate effect.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications relating to this report.

6. Legal Implications and Advice

6.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

7. Human Resources Implications and Advice

7.1 There are no Human Resource implications associated with this paper.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this paper.

9. Climate Change Implications and Advice

9.1 There are no climate change implications associated with this paper.

10. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

10.1 There are no ICT implications associated with this paper.

11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

11.1 There are no Communications or Marketing implications associated with this paper. However, the Code of Corporate Governance will be published on the Authority's website.

List of Appendices Included

A Code of Corporate Governance 2021

Background Papers:

N/A