

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Council – 30 January 2019

**Subject:** Draft Code of Corporate Governance

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive

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**Summary**

This report proposes a revised Code of Corporate Governance which is in accordance with published guidance. Compliance with this Code will be monitored on an annual basis through the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

**Recommendations**

The Council is requested to approve the revised Code, which will then be incorporated within the Constitution.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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## 1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require local authorities to conduct at least annually a review of the effectiveness of their governance framework including their systems of internal control. This review must be documented in an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and published as part of the Council's Annual Accounts. The Statement must be prepared in accordance with proper practices, including those set out in CIPFA and IFAC's<sup>1</sup> *"Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)"*.
- 1.2 The Framework has applied to Annual Governance Statements prepared for the financial year 2016/17 onwards. The AGS involves an assessment of the extent to which the Council has adhered to the governance standards set out in its Code of Corporate Governance (the Code).
- 1.3 In 2016 the Council's Code was fully updated in accordance with the revised Framework. Alongside the CIPFA principles, the vision and values of the organisation – the Our Manchester principles - are at the heart of the Council's approach to governance. Our Manchester was therefore also integral to the way the standards in the Code were defined when it was reviewed. CIPFA have highlighted the Council's approach to its Code as an example of good practice.
- 1.4 It is necessary to keep the Code under review to ensure the contents remain accurate, up to date, and that they reflect all applicable relevant legislation. While substantial changes are not proposed for this update of the document, some amendments are required. Changes include:
  - Inclusion of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and DPA (Data Protection Act) 2018.
  - Wording to reflect updated policies, such as the Capital Strategy and GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) policies.
  - Additional wording to note the Council's commitments in relation to delivering sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits which strengthens the links between the Code and the evidence base included in the AGS.
  - An expanded explanation of how the Council achieves intended outcomes, for example by considering Social Value through procurement.
- 1.5 The Code sets out the governance standards for the Council but deliberately does not include details of how these standards will be achieved. This will be described in the next Annual Governance Statement which will set out evidence of compliance for each different aspect of the Code. The draft Code was reviewed by Standards Committee on 1 November 2018, followed by Audit Committee on 10 December 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> CIPFA is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. IFAC is the International Federation of Accountants.

- 1.6 Revisions have been made to strengthen the wording in respect of the responsibilities of Councillors relating to Managing Data and arising from General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in response to comments at Audit and Standards Committee. A full update on progress with improving data management and GDPR implementation will be included in the AGS 2018/19.

## **2. Next Steps**

- 2.1 The Code forms part of the Council's Constitution and, subject to approval, will therefore be included within a revised Constitution following the Council meeting.