

Meeting of:	GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	24 APRIL 2025
Report Title:	CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING & CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	NIGEL SMITH GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The Code of Corporate Governance forms part of the policy framework.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Code of Corporate Governance should be regularly reviewed to ensure it is current. The last update was in November 2023. There have been some changes required as a result of, for example, the establishment of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Cardiff Capital Region, and the addition of Climate Change, Safeguarding and Corporate Parent implications for all Council reports.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to the Governance and Audit Committee the updated Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) for consideration and approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed regularly to ensure it is kept up to date. The last update was in November 2023. A function of the Governance and Audit Committee is to review and approve the Council's Code of Corporate Governance and, as such, this report is to ensure that this function is fulfilled. Any recommendations of the Committee will be considered and the Code amended as necessary. The Code with the proposed changes is attached at **Appendix A** with the amended Code at **Appendix B**.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The key changes to the Code are.

Page 8 and other references through the Code – amending Employee Code of Conduct to Officers' Code of Conduct and amending the Member Code of Conduct to Code of Conduct for Members, in line with the Council's Constitution

Page 9 – updating the Scheme of Delegation to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions

Page 10 – amending the name of the Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy

Page 11 – adding the Publication Scheme and amending the name of the budget consultation.

Page 12 – Adding Natural Resources Wales; and report to, and consultation with, School Governing Bodies; updating the PSB Wellbeing Plan; amending the joint committee for South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Page 15 – adding the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan

Page 16 – added Climate Change, Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications on all Council Reports

Page 20 – updating the latest Audit Wales Financial Sustainability Assessment report – December 2024

Page 22 – removing the 6 month appraisal review

Page 23 – changing the Council's staff welfare provider to Vivup

Page 24 – adding Climate Change; Safeguarding and Corporate Parent to report templates

Page 26 – adding Information Governance Board and Data Protection Policy, and data processing agreements.

Page 29 – adding Audit Wales Annual Audit Letter

Page 32 – adding in a new sentence to include the Annual Governance Statement will take into consideration any other consultations, reports and reviews undertaken.

In addition to the above, dates have been added to relevant legislation to provide clarity.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Governance and Audit Committee considers and approves the Council's updated Code of Corporate Governance at **Appendix B**.

Background documents

None