

Meeting of:	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	21 MAY 2026
Report Title:	CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION
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 April 2025. • There have been minor amendments to the Code to reflect the changes to strengthening senior management capacity and leadership, references to the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) being replaced with Scrutiny Budget Working Group, and other minor amendments.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this 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 April 2025. 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 changes to the Code are:

- Throughout the document – amended Corporate Management Board/CMB to Corporate Management Team.
- Page 15 - changed the positioning of the Directorate Business Plans to follow the corporate plan/assessment.
- Page 18 – added in Directorate Self-Evaluation process, to tie in with the new process introduced this year and amended reference to the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) to Scrutiny Budget Working Group.
- Page 21 – added in Workforce Strategy to be developed during 2026.
- Page 21/22 – strengthening of senior management capacity and leadership.
- Page 22 – added in the annual appraisal process that sets out how individual employees will contribute to Directorate Business Plans and the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan.
- Page 28 minor amendment to ‘about’ rather than ‘with regard to’.

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 well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

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

Background documents

None