



AUDIT & PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS

Date of Meeting	28.05.2019
Report Title	Local Code of Corporate Governance
Report Number	HSCP.19.001
Lead Officer	Alex Stephen, Chief Finance Officer
Report Author Details	Alex Stephen, Chief Finance Officer
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	a. Sources of Assurance & Local Code of Governance

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To review the local code of corporate governance for the Integration Joint Board (IJB) agreed by Audit & Performance Systems on 10 April 2018 and allow the Audit & Performance Systems (APS) committee to comment on the sources of assurances used to measure the effectiveness of the governance principles contained in the CIPFA\SOLACE¹ *'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework'* document.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Audit & Performance Systems Committee:
- a. Approve the changes to the sources of assurance, as highlighted in appendix A

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. The IJB is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law appropriate to standings, safeguarding public

¹ CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting
SOLACE – Society of Local Authority Chief Executives



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funds and asset and making arrangements to ensure best value. In order to demonstrate this, an annual governance statement is produced each year and included within the annual accounts document. The IJB is required to review the effectiveness of the control environment annually and this also features in the annual governance statement.

- 3.2. In April 2016 CIPFA\SOLACE published a report titled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework'. The objective of the Framework is to help local government in taking responsibility for developing and shaping an informed approach to governance, aiming at achieving the highest standards in a measured and proportionate way.
- 3.3. Whilst the document is written in a local authority context, most of the principles are applicable to the IJB, particularly as the legislation recognises the partnership (IJB) body as a local government body, under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, and therefore subject to the local authority accounting code of practice. Aberdeen City Council has also adopted a local code of corporate governance based on this framework and many of the assurances will be contained in the same documents
- 3.4. At the APS Committee on the 11 April 2017 a local code of corporate governance was approved based on this Framework and this forms the basis of the annual governance statement.
- 3.5. A review has been undertaken of the sources of assurance and the changes are highlighted in italics in appendix 1 of this report. Many of the assurances come from documents which belong to NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council. This is appropriate given the partnership model for IJBs where the decisions made by the IJB are required to be actioned using processes of the partner organisations
- 3.6. An annual review will be required to be undertaken to assess IJB performance against these principles. This will identify any weaknesses and improvement actions required.

4. Implications for IJB

- 4.1. Equalities - NA
- 4.2. Fairer Scotland Duty - NA
- 4.3. Financial - NA



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4.4. Workforce - NA

4.5. Legal - NA

4.6. Other - NA

5. Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

5.1. NA

6. Management of Risk

6.1. **Identified risk(s):** Good governance and internal controls are fundamental to the delivery of the strategic plan and therefore applicable to most of the risks within the strategic risk register

6.2. **Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register:** Risk numbers 1-10 of the strategic risk register

6.3. **How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:** This report outlines the assurances for the effectiveness of the governance principles, as set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE document.