



North Devon Council

Report Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Topic: Financial Management Code

Report by: Tony Rumble, Finance Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) produce a Financial Management Code that is designed to support good practice in Financial Management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. This is an ad-hoc report that assesses our compliance with this statement of standard practice.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That members note the report and our Assessment of Compliance with the CIPFA's Statement of Standard Practice

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To ensure good Financial Management is embedded across the organisation. Good financial management is an essential element of strong governance and longer-term service planning, which are critical in ensuring that local service provision is sustainable.

4. REPORT

4.1. The code is based on a series of principles supported by specific standards and statements of practice which are considered necessary to provide a strong foundation to:

- Financially manage the short, medium and long-term finances of a local authority
- Manage financial resilience to meet foreseen demands on services;
- and
- Financially manage unexpected shocks in their financial circumstances.

4.2. Each local authority must demonstrate that the requirements of the Code are being satisfied. Demonstrating this compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code is a collective responsibility of elected members and the Chief Finance Officer.

4.3. The assessment is across 7 sections covering financial management and the requirements of the financial cycle. The Council's full assessment is attached in Appendix A.

4.4. Devon Audit Partnership, the Council's Internal Auditors, have reviewed the document before submitting to the Governance committee.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None identified.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. Not required.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Not required.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: None Identified.

8.1.2. Improving customer focus: None Identified.

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: None identified.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made by this Committee pursuant to delegated powers provided in Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 5 of the Constitution.

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Author Tony Rumble, Finance Manager, date 2nd November 2023