

A CALL FOR EVIDENCE:

CONSULTATION ON DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government continues to undergo significant change and the environment in which it works is increasing in complexity. Since 2010, local government has coped with unprecedented budget cuts. It has been subject to the Localism Act and other key legislation which have brought about greater flexibility as well as new responsibilities including public health. Local authorities can have a significant role in promoting economic growth in their areas whether through working with Local Enterprise Partnerships, through combined authorities or through other types of delivery vehicle. The introduction of new structures and ways of working provides opportunities for local leadership for authorities as well as challenges for managing risk, ensuring transparency and demonstrating accountability. It is important that a consistent focus of what is required in local areas is developed and maintained.

Good governance enables an authority to pursue such a vision effectively as well as underpinning that vision with control and the management of risk. A one-size-fits-all approach to governance is inappropriate. Local governance arrangements must be proportionate to the risks involved. To assist in developing authorities' approach to good governance CIPFA/SOLACE issued *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework* and accompanying guidance note in 2007. There followed an Addendum published in 2012 with additional guidance

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework urges each local authority to test their approach by reviewing existing governance arrangements and developing and maintaining an up-to-date local code of governance including arrangements for ensuring ongoing effectiveness. They should report publicly on compliance with their own code on an annual basis and on how they have monitored the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year and on planned changes

To ensure the Framework remains 'fit for purpose' the CIPFA/SOLACE Joint Working Group is reviewing the Framework in 2015. The Working Group will also be developing a revised guidance note. The purpose of this consultation is to see how the Framework and guidance have been working in practice and to see where further clarification or guidance is required. The aim is to publish an updated Framework and guidance in late 2015.

The consultation and details on how to respond can be found [here](#).

Responses to this consultation should be returned **by Monday 16th March 2015**.