

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - Assurance Gathering and Actions

Code of Corporate Governance ('CCG')

Completed Action – CCG reviewed and updated

The CCG reflects **7 core principles of good governance** identified in the CIPFA / SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government':

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law;
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits;
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it;
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management; and
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.



Assurance Framework

Completed Action – Assurance Framework document reviewed and updated, where necessary in consultation with relevant officers across the council.

The Assurance Framework is based on CIPFA guidance and reflects the **7 core principles of good governance**. Document is intended to reflect the overall governance framework and records evidence of the arrangements in place and any gaps.

AGS Self-Assessments

Completed Action - AGS Self-Assessment completed by Heads of Service covering all service areas with the responses collated, scored and shared with Internal Audit for 'sense checking'.

The AGS Self-Assessment are intended to cover the key areas of internal control and to provide an oversight of the effectiveness of the operational internal control arrangements within service areas across the council.

Note: The narrative on the draft AGS and completion of the Assurance Framework document has been based on information and updates from service areas across the organisation including HR & OD, Finance, Marketing & Communications, Programmes & Change, Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Performance, Transport & Planning, Data Intelligence & Insight, Economic Development & Regeneration, Democratic Services etc.

Other Sources of Assurance

Including the outcome of Internal Audit and other internal or external reviews undertaken in the period and noting the views of the external auditors.

Draft 2023-24 Annual Governance Statement

Completed Action - Summary of any identified 'areas for improvement' on the self-assessments collated and issued to relevant Executive Director for review and to support continuous improvement.