
4. Vision, leadership and governance

Public sector bodies must have a clear vision and strategy and set priorities for improvement within this vision and strategy. They work together with partners and communities to improve outcomes and foster a culture of innovation.

Conclusion

West Lothian Council continues to have effective and appropriate governance arrangements in place that support scrutiny of decisions made.

West Lothian Council has appropriate governance arrangements to support effective scrutiny, challenge and informed decision making

72. The governance transparency arrangements we consider in reaching our conclusions include:

- council and committee structure and conduct
- overall arrangements and standards of conduct including those for the prevention and detection of fraud, error, bribery and corruption. This includes action in response to the National Fraud Initiative
- openness of council and committees
- reporting of performance and whether this is fair, balanced and understandable.

73. West Lothian Council's governance arrangements have been set out in the annual governance statement in the annual accounts. We have reviewed these arrangements and concluded that they are appropriate and effective. Our observations at committee meetings have found that these are conducted in a professional manner and there is a reasonable level of scrutiny and challenge by members.

74. We consider that governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny, challenge and decision making.