

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**STATEMENT 2**

5.3 Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings and the Scheme of Administration can only be changed by full council on notice being given. That helps ensure stability, continuity and careful consideration of proposed changes. Hybrid meeting arrangements and the live audio-visual webcasting and recording of meetings continue. Members of the public may observe meetings physically or online and may participate, where appropriate, in the same ways. A substantial and growing library of recordings is available to the public online. Due to legal rules restricting political publicity by the council, live webcasting was suspended during the period before the UK Parliament general Election on 4 July 2024. The right of public access to meetings and meeting papers was maintained. The recordings were uploaded shortly after 5 July 2024.

6. Local Code of Corporate Governance

6.1 The council's governance arrangements are monitored, reviewed and reported under a Framework and Guidance called "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government", produced by CIPFA/SOLACE in 2016 (the Framework). The current Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted in April 2018. Its operation is considered each year by officers and members in approving the annual governance statement. Its contents and operation were reviewed in 2023/24. The Framework has not changed. The Local Code has been an effective tool to gather evidence and demonstrate corporate governance standards. Officers and elected members are familiar with it. Year-on-year progress and comparison are significant. Some changes to terminology have been made, for example, replacing references to Management Plans to Service Improvement Plans. No substantial changes are required or have been recommended. Governance and Risk Committee accepted the position in June 2024.

6.2 The Code adopts the seven over-arching principles of the Framework: -

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

6.3 Each of those principles is broken down into sub-principles and then into a hierarchy of separate elements to allow a focused approach to the assembly of evidence for the standards listed against them. The diagram below shows the seven principles and their interaction. There is a list for each of them of the most significant sources of evidence used to assess compliance against the standards.

PRINCIPLES AND COMMON SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

