

Dimension 1 : Community Focus

How the principles of corporate governance should be reflected

Through carrying out their general and specific duties and responsibilities and their ability to exert wider influence, local authorities should:

- work for and with their communities
- exercise leadership in their local communities, where appropriate
- undertake an 'ambassadorial' role to promote the well-being of their area, where appropriate, through maintaining effective arrangements:
 - for explicit accountability to stakeholders for the authority's performance and its **effectiveness** in the delivery of services and the sustainable use of resources
 - demonstrate **integrity** in the authority's dealings in building effective relationships and partnerships with other public agencies and the private/voluntary sectors
 - demonstrate **openness** in all their dealings
 - demonstrate **inclusivity** by communicating and engaging with all sections of the community to encourage active participation
 - develop and articulate a clear and **up to date** vision and corporate strategy in response to community needs.
- self assessment score (1 = need to improve, 2 = adequate and 3 = good)

	The local code should reflect the requirements to:	Source documents/processes/other means that may be used to demonstrate compliance	Self Assessment Score	Action plan for improvement
(a)	publish on a timely basis an annual report presenting an objective, understandable account of the authority's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities and achievements • financial position and performance. 	BVPP BVPP Summary Council Tax Leaflet	2	Business engagement Develop further ways of getting feedback on BVPP

	<p>The reports should include statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explaining the authority's responsibility for the financial statements • confirming that the authority complies with relevant standards and codes of corporate governance • on the effectiveness of the authority's system for risk management and internal control. 			
(b)	<p>publish on a timely basis a performance plan presenting an objective, balanced and understandable account and assessment of the authority's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current performance in service delivery • plans to maintain and improve service quality 	<p>Performance Plan is published annually.</p>	3	
(c)	<p>put in place proper arrangements for the independent review of the financial and operational reporting processes.</p>	<p>Audit Plan Internal Audit Scrutiny Adhoc inspections 1DeA BVPP</p>	3	

(d)	Put in place proper arrangements designed to encourage individuals and groups from all sections of the community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the authority and put in place appropriate monitoring processes to ensure that they continue to work in practice.	Strategic partnership framework Local Strategic Partnership Community Area Partnerships Member led area seminars at 6 monthly intervals in 5 areas District Areas, with a District-wide Parish Forum being held annually. The community meetings consider and debate issues of local concern, including the outcomes of community planning. Tomorrow's and People's Voice panel consulted three times a year.	3	
(e)	Make an explicit commitment to openness in all of their dealings, subject only to the need to preserve confidentiality in those specific circumstances where it is proper and appropriate to do so, and by their actions and communications deliver an account against that commitment.	Constitution -section 3 and 14 outline how the public can get information on and get involved in council issues. Calendars of meetings published Cabinet, Scrutiny and Standards Committees work plans on website Agenda Papers to the press	3	
(f)	establish clear channels of communication with all sections of their community and other stakeholders, and put in place proper monitoring arrangements to ensure that they operate effectively.	Wiltshire Improvement Partnership West Wilts Matters x3 Communication strategy Community Area Partnerships Engage public in specific schemes, eg Transforming Trowbridge Website development Press releases	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to introduce monitoring • Hard to reach groups • Equalities/Disabilities scheme to implemented. • Gender equalities scheme to be implemented

(g)	ensure that a vision for their local communities and their strategic plans, priorities and targets are developed through robust mechanisms, and in consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders, and that they are clearly articulated and disseminated	Corporate Plan Area Action plans (x5) Community strategy LSP Statutory consultation	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further development LSP role• Continue engagement
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Reference documents	Tools to assist local authorities for self-assessment purposes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Local Government: Guidance on Enhancing Public Participation DETR (1978) • Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity DoE circular 20/88 • Human Rights Act 1998 Guidance • Race Relations Act 1976 and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 • Macpherson Report (1999) • Local Government Act 2000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmark of the Ideal Authority I&DeA (1999) 		