

Annual Governance Statement

Requirements and Process

What does the AGS do?

Provide a meaningful but brief communication regarding the review of governance.

Be high level, strategic and written in an open and readable style

Focus on outcomes and value for money and relate to the authority's vision for the area.

The AGS should include:

An acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance.

A reference to and assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the governance framework.

An opinion on the level of assurance that the governance arrangements can provide

The AGS should include:

An agreed action plan dealing with significant governance issues and also indicating how previous actions have been resolved

A conclusion

The signature of the leading member (or equivalent) and chief executive (or equivalent) on behalf of the authority.

Current and Proposed Process

Currently - AGS put together annually

Proposed – Local Code of Governance reviewed quarterly.

The Local Code of Corporate Governance:

In support of the governance objective the 2016 Guidance requires *inter alia* that authorities develop and maintain an up-to-date local code of governance.

Existing local codes will need to be re-drafted because the new guidance revises the principles.

The Local Code should be maintained in year.

The Seven Principles

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

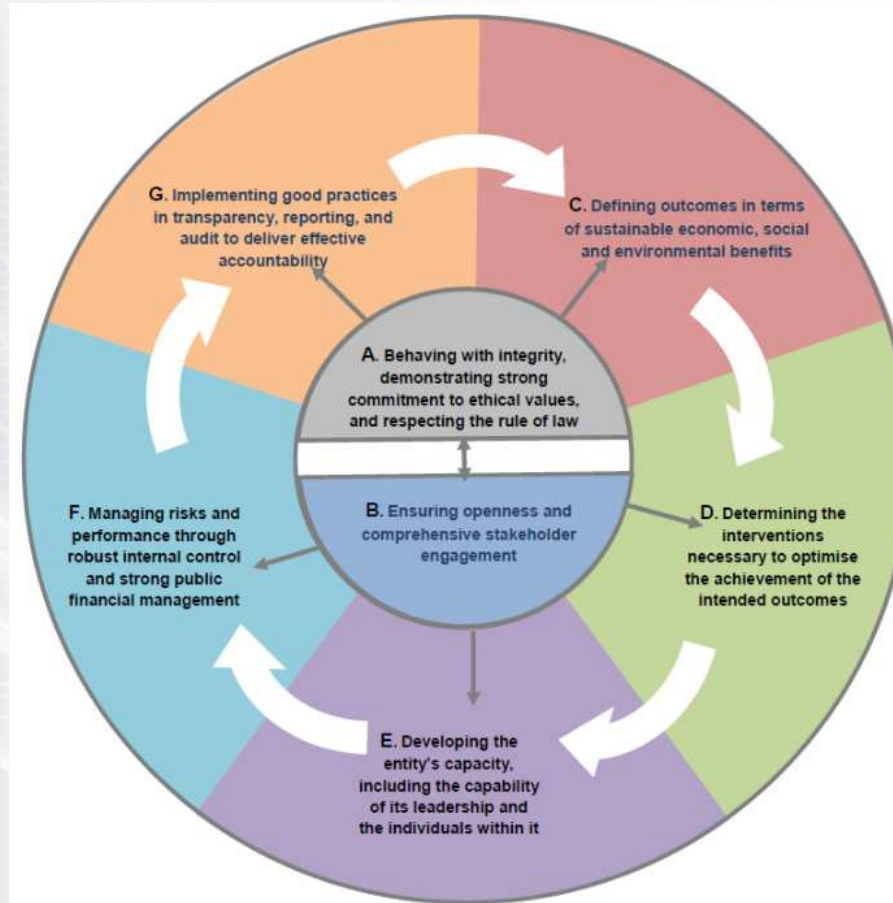
Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes

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 accountability

The Seven Principles



Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

Audit Committee

Leader, Cabinet Members, Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer, Corporate Leadership Team
(Provides oversight of the 3 lines of defence assurance framework)

2nd Line of Defence

Oversight/Support

Strategy / Policy / Direction Setting / decision-making, assurance oversight.

1st Line of Defence

Business and Operational Management

Delivering objectives, identifying risks and improvement actions, implementing controls, progress reporting, provides management assurance, ensuring compliance.

3rd Line of Defence

Independent Assurance

Independence challenge and audit, reporting assurance, audit opinion assurance levels.

Committee and Scrutiny Functions

Operational Management and staff

Internal Audit

Senior Management Functions

Managing Performance and Data Quality

External Audit

Quality Control Checks

Programme and Project Management

External Inspections

Risk Management

Delivery of Service Business Plans

Review Agencies

Functional compliance (Information Management, HR, Legal, Contract and Financial management)

Regulators

New Process 2019

Assurance Framework

- IA Healthy Organisation Review to review the robustness of the Local Code of Governance (LCG)

Corporate Governance Officers Group

- Review the LCG and issues arising from the many assurance streams.

Produce AGS