

Local Code of Governance

Next Review: 2026

Time table for approval:

- Corporate Management Team - March 2024
- Audit Committee - July 2024
- Cabinet - TBC
- Council - TBC

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1. What is corporate governance, and what is the purpose of this Code?

“Corporate governance” is the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved. Good governance in the public sector means achieving objectives while acting in the public interest at all times, which should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholders.

The overall aim of the Code is to demonstrate how resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities, that there is sound and inclusive decision-making, and that there is clear accountability for the use of those resources to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

What roles does the council need to play?



engage in effective partnerships, and provide leadership for and with the community



perform a stewardship role which protects the interests of local people and makes the best use of resources



ensure the delivery of high-quality local services, whether directly or in partnership or by commissioning



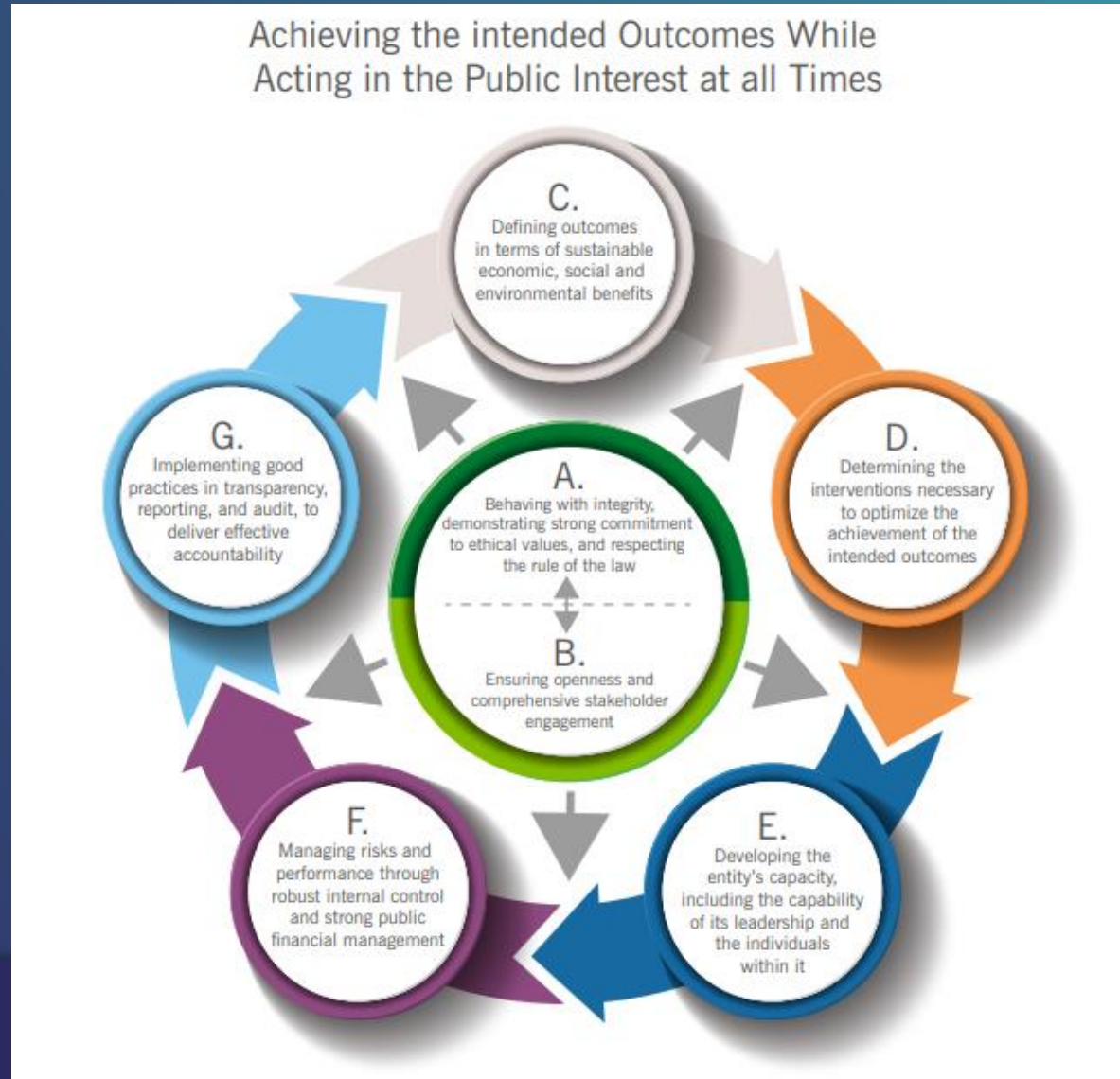
develop citizenship and local democracy

Public money is safeguarded – properly accounted for – used economically – used effectively – used efficiently

There is continuous improvement in the way in which the council’s functions are exercised (i.e., TRANSFORMATION)

2. What is our Local Code of Governance based upon?

Our Assurance Framework demonstrates our adherence to the CIPFA / SOLACE principles.

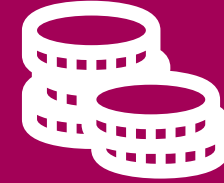


Our Corporate Plan outcomes

A growing city
with a strong
and prosperous
community



A safe city
with a good
quality of life
for all



A clean city
with a resilient
environment



A transforming
council delivering
efficient, cost
effective services



Our Values



The Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles)

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

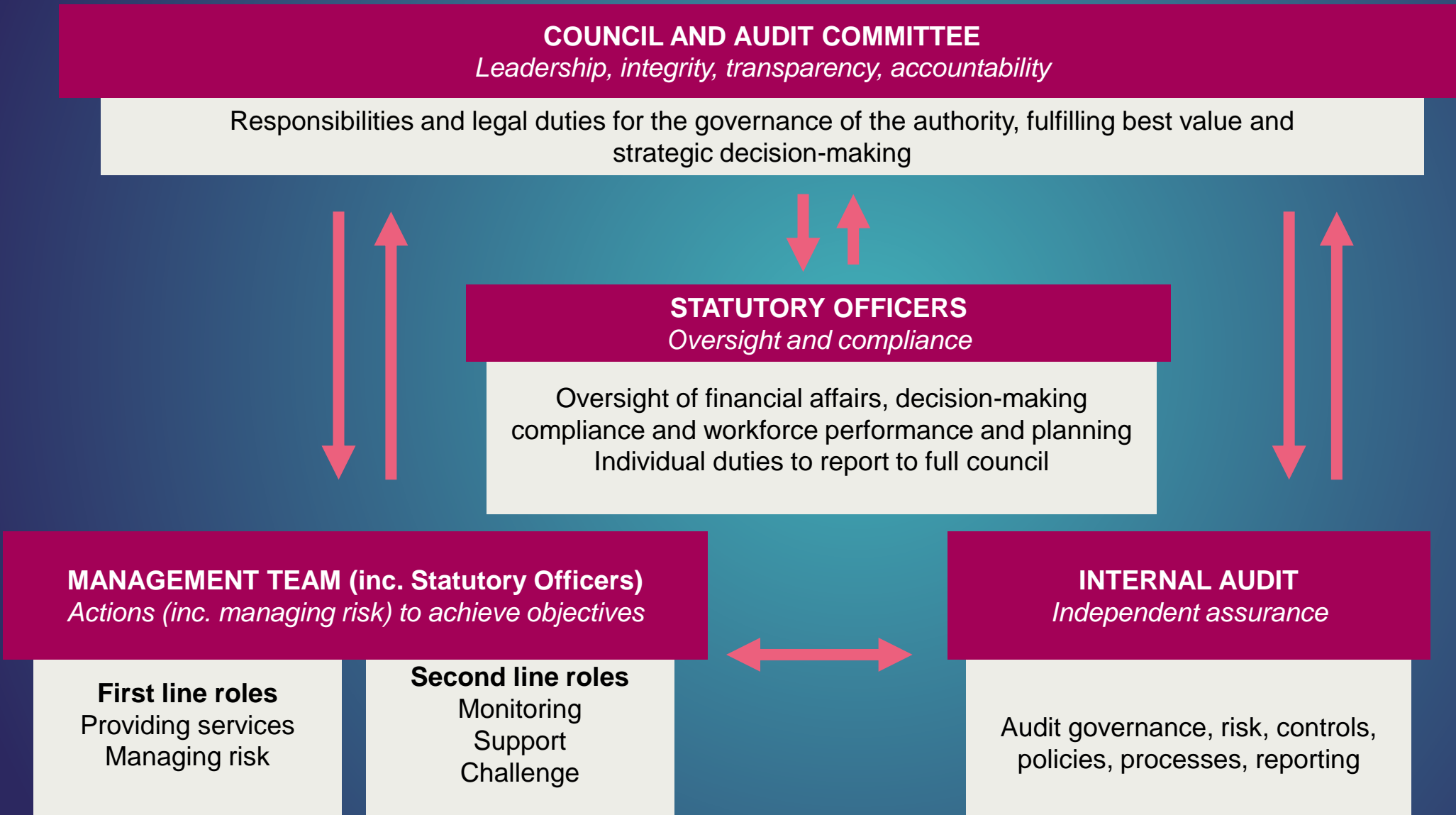
Openness

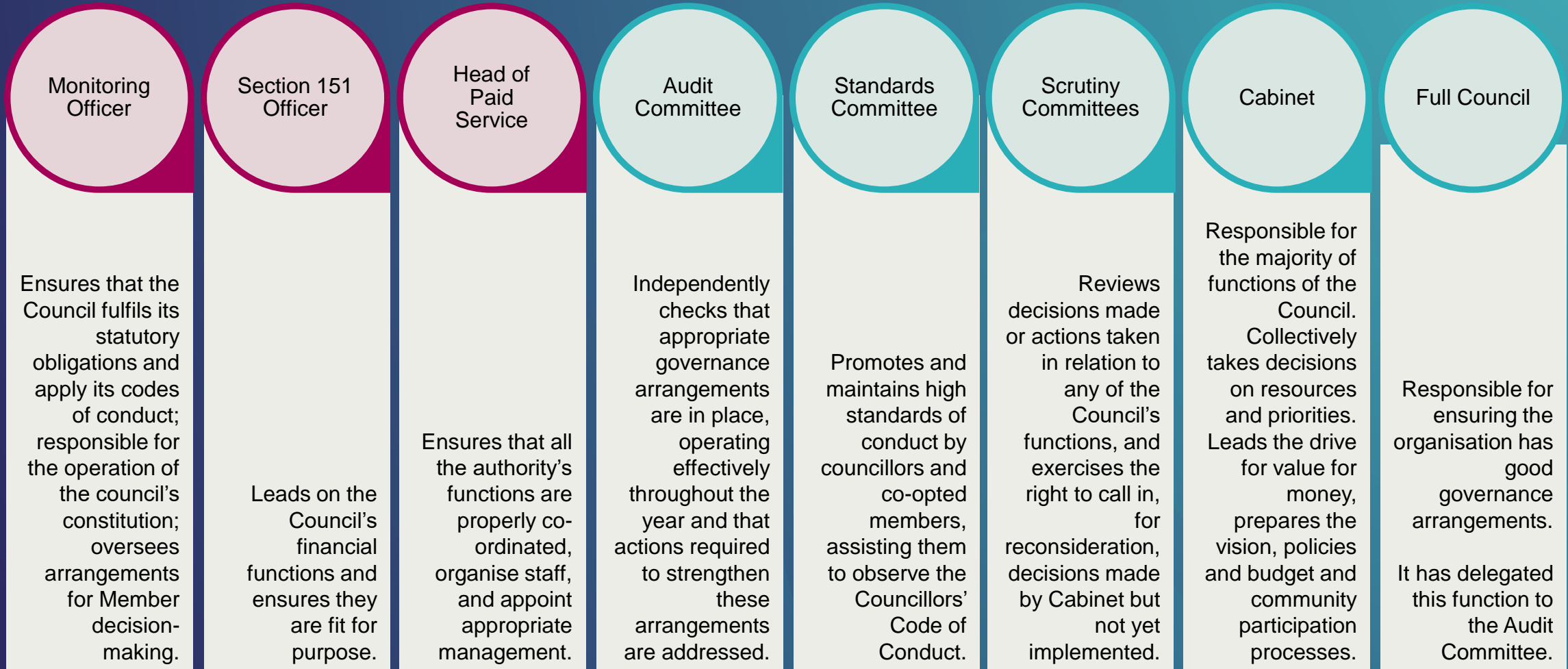
Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

3. How does the council ensure good governance?

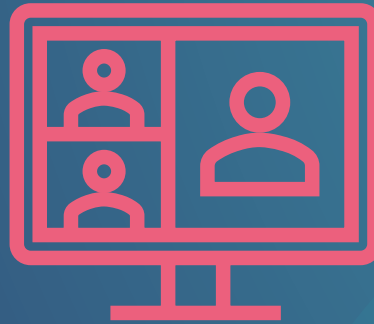




How are governance arrangements monitored and reported?



The organisation undertakes an annual review of governance and develops the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)



Corporate Leadership Team reviews the AGS



AGS publicly reported to Audit Committee as part of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts

5. Who is responsible for maintaining the Local Code of Governance?

The Audit Committee will review the Local Code of Governance on a bi-annual basis with a view to ensuring that:



the Council's governance arrangements are adequate and operating effectively in practice



action is planned that will ensure effective governance in the future, if reviews of governance arrangements have revealed gaps.