

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016 Edition)

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It is crucial that leaders and chief executives keep their governance arrangements up to date and relevant.

The main principle underpinning the development of this new Framework continues to be that local government is developing and shaping its own approach to governance, taking account of the environment in which it now operates.

The Framework is intended to assist authorities individually in reviewing and accounting for their own unique approach.

Read the full publication [here](#).



The overall aim is to ensure that 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 in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

The Framework positions the attainment of sustainable economic, societal, and environmental outcomes as a key focus of governance processes and structures.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Framework defines the principles that should underpin the governance of each local government organisation.

It provides a structure to help individual authorities with their approach to governance.

Whatever form of arrangements are in place, authorities should therefore test their governance structures and partnerships against the principles contained in the Framework by:

- reviewing existing governance arrangements
- developing and maintaining an up-to-date local code of governance, including arrangements for ensuring ongoing effectiveness
- reporting publicly on compliance with their own code on an annual basis and on how

they have monitored the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year and on planned changes.

To achieve good governance, each local authority should be able to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the core and sub-principles contained in this Framework.

It should therefore develop and maintain a local code of governance/governance arrangements reflecting the principles set out.

It is essential that the Framework is applied in a way that demonstrates the spirit and ethos of good governance which cannot be achieved by rules and procedures alone. Shared values that are integrated into the culture of an organisation, and are reflected in behaviour and policy, are hallmarks of good governance.

The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with this Framework fulfils the statutory requirements across the United Kingdom for a local authority to conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include a statement reporting on the review with its Statement of Accounts.

The Framework applies to annual governance statements prepared for the financial year 2016/17 onwards.

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THIS CIPFA PUBLICATION:

- [Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Guidance Notes for English Authorities \(2016 Edition\)](#)

Test your governance structures and partnerships against the principles contained in the Framework

