



# Code of Corporate Governance

## Introduction

Corporate governance comprises the systems and values by which the District Council is directed and controlled and through which it is accountable to and engages with its communities.

To demonstrate compliance with the principles of good corporate governance, the District Council must ensure that it does the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

## Delivering Good Governance

Derbyshire Dales District Council is committed to applying the seven core principles of good governance set out in the CIPFA/SOACE framework. The principles are -

- 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 entity'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

Good governance is crucial as it leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement, and good outcomes for citizens and service users. Further, good governance enables the District Council to pursue its aims effectively whilst controlling and mitigating risk.

The District Council has a robust Constitution and other good governance documents and arrangements in place. Together these documents and arrangements demonstrate that the Council is seeking to ensure that it is governed well through the integration into its conduct the core principles of good practice.

The purpose of this Code of Corporate Governance is therefore to provide a simple document with hyperlinks to relevant documents relating to governance which are available free of charge on the District Council's website.

**PRINCIPLE 1 – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law**

**Evidence**

- Protocol on the Management of the Civic Allowance
- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances
- Elected Member Code of Conduct
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Planning Code of Good Practice
- Protocol on Employee/Member Relations – Constitution
- Constitution
- Sponsorship Policy
- Risk assessment of reports
- Confidential Reporting Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Surveillance Policy

**PRINCIPLE 2 – Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement**

**Evidence**

- The Corporate Plan
- Local Development Framework Consultation Plan
- Reasoned decisions at quasi- judicial meetings
- Annual review of Planning decisions
- Constitution
- FOI Publication Scheme
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Council and Committee decisions
- Web casting and recording of meetings
- Public Participation Scheme
- Area Community Forums
- Town and Parish Council Conference

**PRINCIPLE 3 – Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits**

**Evidence**

- Corporate Plan
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Annual Budget
- Annual Governance Statement (part of the Statement of Accounts)
- Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
- Financial Regulations – Constitution
- Contract Standing Orders – Constitution
- Asset Management Plan

**PRINCIPLE 4 –** Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

**Evidence**

- Consultation and review of feedback
- Risk Management Hub
- Key Performance Indicators
- Budget preparation in accordance with agreed strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan
- Budget process and revised estimate's
- Capital Programme process and scorecard
- Risk Management Register
- Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
- Confidential Reporting Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Surveillance Policy
- Annual Review of Complaints

**PRINCIPLE 5 –** Developing the entity's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

**Evidence**

- Member Development Scheme
- Employee Personal Development Scheme
- Member Training and Development Programme
- Insight – Internal management development programme
- Member Induction
- Member Representative roles
- Lola – internal training programme

**PRINCIPLE 6 –** Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

**Evidence**

- Internal audit and reports
- External audit and reports
- Risk Management Register
- Transparency and Open Data source
- Risk assessment of all Committee/Council decisions
- Regular budget reporting and income monitoring

**PRINCIPLE 7 -** Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

**Evidence**

- Annual report on Service plans and performance management
- Annual review of Corporate Governance framework
- Review of actions recommended by internal audit service
- Annual Audit Letter
- Anti fraud and corruption policy and reporting
- Data Protection Officer in place

- Continual monitoring of Medium Term Financial Plan

## **Monitoring and Review**

The District Council will monitor the arrangements set out in this Code of Corporate Governance for their effectiveness in practice and will review them on a continuing basis to ensure that they are up to date.

Each year the Council will publish an Annual Governance Statement which will explain and assess how the Council has complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and provide details of how continual improvement in the system of internal control will be achieved.