

DERBYSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Providing Assurance by making sure

“The right things are being done in the right way, for the right people in a timely inclusive open honest and accountable way”.

Introduction

Our Local Code of Governance has been created to provide assurances to our communities of our obligation to deliver good governance in all that we do. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 regulation 6A, all authorities are required to undertake a review of their governance arrangements each year.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

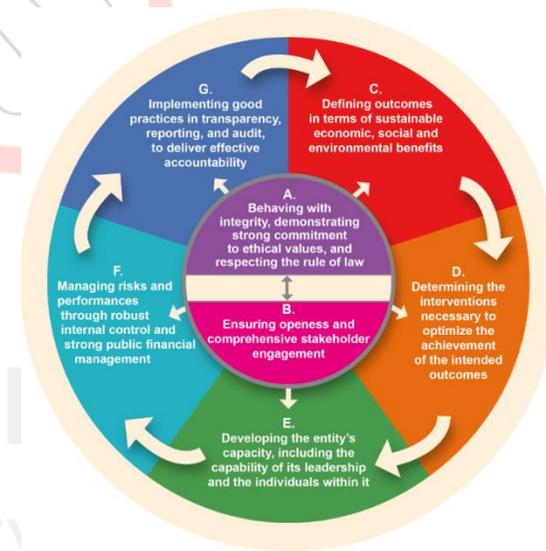
Core Principles

The code is divided into seven core principles, these have been adopted from the CIPFA/SOLACE framework document 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' (2016).

Each of the core principles (A-H) covers a particular aspect of The Authorities responsibilities for corporate governance. Under each of the principles, the means by which The Authority will meet and demonstrate its commitment is evidenced in more detail in the Local Code of Corporate Governance Framework.

Defining the Core Principles and Sub Principles of good governance

The diagram below, from the Delivering Good Governance Framework (2016), illustrates how the principles for good governance in the public sector relate to each other. Principles A and B inform implementation of principles C-G, Principle H is the requirements aligned to the Fire National Framework:



Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Behaving with integrity	Ensuring Members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members Code of Conduct • Employee Code of Conduct • Induction for new Members and staff on standard of behaviour expected. • Performance appraisals • Financial Regulations, Procedures and Standing Orders
	Ensuring Members take the lead in establishing specific standard values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood. These should build on the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority values • Our Plan 2020-2023 (IRMP)
	Leading by example and using these values as a framework for decision making and other actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declarations of interests • Members Handbook • Governance and Performance Working Group • Committee terms of reference • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement
	Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistleblowing policy • Complaints procedure • Dignity at Work Policy • Register of interests (members and staff) Register of gifts and hospitality • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement

Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values	Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the organisation's ethical standards and performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying and harassment strategy • Codes of conduct • Authority values • Annual appraisal
	Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the organisation's culture and operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codes of conduct • Authority values • Annual appraisal
	Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual appraisal • Procurement strategy
	Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the organisation are required to act with integrity and in compliance with high ethical standards expected by the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships • Procurement strategy
Respecting the rule of law	Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial regulations • Statutory officers
	Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders and members are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job description/specifications • Compliance with CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (CIPFA, 2015) • Scheme of delegation
	Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
	Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial regulations • Anti-fraud policies and procedures

Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Openness	Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report – link to be added • Freedom of Information Requests • Publication scheme • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement • Compliance with the Transparency code 2015 • Authority website
	Making decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes. The presumption is for openness. If that is not the case, a justification for the reasoning for keeping a decision confidential should be provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Committee agendas and minutes • Public meetings
	Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority/Committee timetable Reporting format • Authority agendas and minutes
	Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/ courses of action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation website page – Have your say
Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders	Effectively engaging with stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation website page – Have your say
	Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership framework • Police/Fire Strategic Collaboration Board • Fire/Fire Strategic Collaboration Board

	<p>Ensuring that partnerships are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trust • a shared commitment to change. • a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners. • and that the added value of partnership working is explicit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership framework
<p>Engaging stakeholders effectively, including individual citizens and service users</p>	<p>Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation strategy
	<p>Ensuring that communication methods are effective and that members and officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation strategy
	<p>Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation
	<p>Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how their views have been taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation website page – Have your say

Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
	Having a clear vision which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provides the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Plan 2020 -2023 (IRMP) • Annual Service plan
	Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Plan 2020 - 2023 (IRMP) • Annual Service plan
	Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance reports
	Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management policy • Corporate Risk Register
Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions when taking decisions about service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme
	Taking a longer-term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the organisation's intended outcomes and short-term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Plan 2020 - 2023 (IRMP) • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Medium Term Financial Plan • Corporate Risk Register • Member briefings
	Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation strategy
	Ensuring fair access to services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Impact Assessments

Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Determining interventions	Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and including the risks associated with those options. Therefore, ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee report template • Member briefings
	Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation strategy • Our Plan 2020 – 2023 (IRMP) • Annual Service Plan • Budget/Financial strategy
Planning interventions	Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority/Committee timetable • Calendar of dates for developing and submitting plans and reports that are adhered to
	Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation strategy • Representative body consultation • Internal network groups
	Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively including shared risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership framework
	Establishing appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of the planning process in order to identify how the performance of services and projects is to be measured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance reporting
	Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance reporting • Strategic Planning Cycle
	Preparing budgets in accordance with organisational objectives, strategies and the Medium Term Financial Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Medium Term Financial plan • Efficiency Plan

	Informing medium and long term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan • Efficiency Plan
Optimising achievement of intended outcomes	Ensuring the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Plan 2020 – 2023 (IRMP) • Annual Service Plan • Budget/Financial Strategy
	Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan • Efficiency Plan
	Ensuring the medium term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan • Efficiency Plan
	Ensuring the achievement of 'social value' through service planning and commissioning. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 states that this is "the additional benefit to the community...over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement Strategy

Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Developing the entity's capacity	Reviewing operations, performance use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance reports
	Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how the authority's resources are allocated so that outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service review
	Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership framework
	Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce plan • Organisational development plan
Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals	Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job descriptions • Member/officer protocol • Member briefings
	Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of delegation • Standing orders • Financial regulations • Terms of reference
	Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads the authority in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other's authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of delegation • Standing orders • Financial regulations • Terms of reference • People Strategy

	<p>Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective shared leadership by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction. ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons learnt from governance weaknesses both internal and external 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic “Buddy” Scheme Standards Committee Organisational Development Plan Induction programme Appraisals Personal development plans PESTLE Analysis Job descriptions/person specifications
	<p>Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation strategy
	<p>Taking steps to consider the leadership’s own effectiveness and ensuring leaders are open to constructive feedback from peer review and inspections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMICFRS Inspection report HMICFRS COVID-19 Inspection Report HMICFRS Action Plan Standards Committee Organisational Development Plan Induction programme Appraisals
	<p>Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee Induction programme Appraisals Personal development plans Debrief process
	<p>Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHU Fitness advisor MIND blue light programme Employee Assistance Programme Critical Incident Welfare Support

Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Managing risk	Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management policy • Corporate Risk Register
	Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that they are working effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management policy • Corporate Risk Register
	Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management policy • Corporate Risk Register
Managing performance	Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Reporting • Programme Board
	Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee timetable • Committee report template • Member briefings
	Encouraging effective and constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives to support balanced and effective decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference • Training for Members
	Providing members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee timetable • Committee report template • Member briefings • Performance Reporting • Programme Board
Robust internal control	Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving the objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Strategy • Internal Audit plan • External Audit Plan • Audit reports

	Evaluating and monitoring the authority's risk management and internal control on a regular basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Policy • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement
	Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-fraud policy
	Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual governance statement • Annual Assurance Statement • Internal audit • Audit Committee
	Ensuring an audit committee or equivalent group or function which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing body: provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment and that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit committee Terms of Reference • Training
Managing data	Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Data Protection Officer • GDPR policies and procedures
	Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing agreements
	Reviewing and auditing regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data validation procedures
Strong public financial management	Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan • Efficiency Plan
	Ensuring well-developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring reports

Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability		
Supporting Principles	The Authority will meet the requirements of this principle by:	This will be evidenced by:
Implementing good practice in transparency	<p>Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in an understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate.</p> <p>Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report • Compliance with Data Transparency requirements • Senior Salary Information • Gender Pay Gap • Public Sector Equality Duty Report
Implementing good practices in reporting	Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and the stewardship of its resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report • Annual financial statements Annual Governance Statement Annual Assurance Statement
	Ensuring members and senior management own the results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate approvals by officers and members
	Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in the Framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (annual governance statement).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement
	Ensuring that the Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement
	Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other similar organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report • Budget/Medium term financial plan • Efficiency Plan

Assurance and effective accountability	Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon. Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place which provides assurance with regard to governance arrangements and recommendations are acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Audit Report • Annual Internal Audit report • Compliance with CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2010) • Compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
	Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer challenge review • Service Delivery Assurance Team
	Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Governance Statement • Annual Assurance Statement
	Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and that the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership framework

The DFRA will undertake an annual review of its governance arrangements and issue an annual governance statement with the published accounts.

If you have any concerns about the way in which the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, its Members, officers or agents conduct business, please contact one of the following as appropriate.

Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive - Gavin Tomlinson	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3RS. Telephone: (01773) 305 305
Monitoring Officer / Solicitor - Louise Taylor	
Joint Director of Finance for Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and Derbyshire Constabulary - Simon Allsop	
Internal Auditor - Mandy Marples	Derby City Council. The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS. Telephone: (01332) 293111
External Auditor – Helen Henshaw	Ernst & Young LLP, No 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6HQ. Telephone: (0121) 535 2000