

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Report To: **Audit Committee** Date: **7 January 2014**

Acting Corporate Director Environment, Report No: AC/73/14/AP/APr Report By:

Regeneration & Resources

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Subject: **Local Code Of Governance**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Local Code of Governance to the Audit Committee for approval.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Good governance for local authorities means ensuring they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 2.2 In a report to the April 2013 Audit Committee, Members were advised that the Council was currently developing comprehensive arrangements for a Local Code of Governance, including the internal control framework, arrangements for risk management, financial governance and accountability which would lead to the inclusion of a new assurance statement in this year's (2013-2014) Accounts called the Annual Governance Statement that will replace the current Statement on the System of Internal Control.
- The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) provide a framework for developing and maintaining a Local Code of Governance and for discharging accountability for the proper conduct of public business to support the publication of an Annual Governance Statement. It defines the principles that should underpin governance and suggests best practice as:
 - reviewing the Council's existing governance arrangements against the Framework;
 - developing and maintaining a Local Code of Governance, including arrangements for ensuring its ongoing application and effectiveness. The Framework outlines six core principles of good governance and translates each one into a range of specific requirements that should be reflected in the Local Code; and
 - preparing an Annual Governance Statement to report publicly on the extent to which the Council complies with its local Code, including how the effectiveness of these arrangements during the year have been monitored and on any planned changes in the coming period.
- A working group comprising officers from Performance Management, Finance, Legal, Education, Appx 1 CHCP, HR and Internal Audit has now reviewed existing arrangements against the Framework and has developed a draft Local Code of Governance which demonstrates the ways in which the Council will achieve good governance. This is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.5 In addition to the Local Code, monitoring processes have also been developed whereby all chief officers will be required to review the effectiveness of these arrangements within their own services/directorate during the year and highlight any gaps as appropriate.

2.6 As this is the first year that the Council will implement the Local Code of Governance and the associated monitoring processes, the Chief Internal Auditor will provide support to chief officers in order to ensure consistency of approach. The working group will then review the responses and finalise the Local Code of Governance.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Members approve the draft Local Code of Governance for adoption by the Council.

Alan Puckrin Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Good governance for local authorities means ensuring they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 4.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) provide a framework for developing and maintaining a Local Code of Governance and for discharging accountability for the proper conduct of public business, to support the publication of an Annual Governance Statement. It defines the principles that should underpin governance, and suggests best practice as:-
 - reviewing the Council's existing governance arrangements against the Framework;
 - developing and maintaining a local Code of Governance, including arrangements for ensuring
 its ongoing application and effectiveness. The Framework outlines six core principles of good
 governance and translates each one into a range of specific requirements that should be
 reflected in the Local Code; and
 - preparing an Annual Governance Statement to report publicly on the extent to which the Council complies with its local Code, including how the effectiveness of these arrangements during the year have been monitored, and on any planned changes in the coming period.
- 4.3 The Local Code of Governance will underpin the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement and provide the evidence base for scrutiny by the external auditors.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal: None Finance: None Personnel: None Equalities: None

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 A working group was set up to develop the draft Local Code of Governance which included representation from all directorates.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Delivering Good Governance In Local Government Framework (2007, CIPFA/SOLACE)

Principle 1

Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area

Supporting Principle

1. Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision and its intended outcome for citizens and service users

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
1.1 Develop and promote the authority's purpose and vision.	 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013-17 Corporate Statement 2013-2017 Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIP) 2013-2015 Service Statements 2013-2015 CDIP Guidance Service Statement Guidance Self-Evaluation Guidance CDIPs link to SOA and Corporate Statements Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework (SPPMF) Workshops and Presentations for senior management and team leaders Committee reports CHCP Quarterly Service Reviews 		
1.2 Review on a regular basis the authority's vision for the local area and its implications for the authority's governance arrangements.	 SOA 2013-17 Corporate Statement 2013-2017 Local Code of Governance Committee reports CDIP Guidance Service Statement Guidance Self-Evaluation Guidance CHCP Quarterly Service Reviews 		

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
1.3 Ensure that partnerships are underpinned by a common vision of their work that is understood and agreed by all parties.	 SOA 2013-17 Community Plan Reports to Alliance Board 		
understood and agreed by all parties.	Reports to Alliance Board Reports to SOA Programme Board Inverclyde Alliance Memorandum of Understanding		
1.4 Publish an annual report on a timely basis to communicate the authority's activities and achievements, its financial position and performance.	 SOA Annual Report Public Performance Reporting Annual Report Annual Report and Accounts Customer satisfaction performance indicators (from Citizen's Panel) 		
Supporting Principle	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	f service whether directly, or in partnership, or by	y commissioning	
2.1 Decide how the quality of service for users is to be measured and make sure that the information needed to review service quality effectively and regularly is available.	 CDIPs Statutory Performance Indicators Key Performance Indicators SOLACE Benchmarking Indicators Self-Evaluation Guidance Community Engagemenet and Capacity Building Network (CECBN) Action Plan Citizens' Panel Benchmarking Networks across Services Communities of Practice eg Performance Management Forum CHCP Quarterly Service Reviews CHCP Advisory Network Care Inspectorate Quality Gradings and Scrutiny Reporting 		

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
2.2 Put in place effective arrangements to	Quarterly Performance Reports to		
identify and deal with failure in service	Committee		
delivery.	2. SPI/KPI reports set out trends		
,	3. Complaints Policy		
	4. Complaints Recording System		
	5. Service Improvement Plans for		
	Complaints		
	6. Complaints training		
	7. Complaints Reporting		
	8. CMT regularly reviews and actions Audit		
	Scotland performance reports with		
	relevant reporting and follow up to		
	committee as appropriate		
	CHCP Quarterly Service Reviews		
	10. CHCP Organisational Performance		
	Review (OPR) Reports		
	11. Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan		
Supporting Principle			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	of resources and that tax payers and service us	ers receive excellent	value for money.
3.1 Decide how value for money (VFM) is to	Standing Orders Relating to Contracts		•
be measured and make sure that the	Procurement Manual		
authority or the partnership has the	3. CHCP Service Commissioning and		
information needed to review value for	Procurement Framework and Guidance		
money and performance effectively.	4. Annual Procurement Capability		
Measure the environmental impact of	Assessment		
policies, plans and decisions.	5. Annual Efficiency Statement		
	6. Financial Regulations		
	7. Budget Monitoring Reports		
	8. Financial Strategy		
	9. CIPFA Directors of Finance Key		
	Performance Indicators		

Principle 2

Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.

Supporting Principle

1. Ensuring effective leadership throughout the authority and being clear about executive and non-executive functions and of the roles and responsibilities of the scrutiny function.

	LA Requirement		Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
1.1			Role profile for the Leader Job Description/Person Specification for the Chief Executive Member/Officer protocol Local Code of Governance Performance Review Process for Chief Executive Performance Review Process for Chief Officers Joint Agreement between Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Inverclyde Council for Performance Review of CHCP Corporate Director and Heads of Service Performance Appraisal Process for Service Managers	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
		9.	Scheme of Delegation		
		11	Standing Orders Scheme of Administration		
		12	. Planning Scheme of Administration		

Supporting Principle

2. Ensuring that a constructive working relationship exists between authority members and officers and that the responsibilities of members and officers are carried out to a high standard.

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
2.1 Determine a scheme of delegation and	Scheme of Delegation		
reserve powers within the constitution,	Terms of Reference for Committees		
including a formal schedule on those	3. Standing Orders		
matters specifically reserved for collective	4. Scheme of Administration		
decision of the authority, taking account of	5. Planning Scheme of Delegation		
relevant legislation, and ensure that it is	6. Financial Regulations August 2011		
monitored and updated when required.	7. CHCP Scheme of Delegation and		
	Scheme of Establishment		

Evaluation Criteria:

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
2.2 Make the Chief Executive responsible and accountable to the authority for all aspects of operational management.	 Scheme of Delegation Standing Orders Role profile for the Chief Executive Performance Review Process for Chief Executive and Corporate Directors 		
2.3 Develop protocols to ensure that the leader and Chief Executive negotiate their respective roles early in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained.	 Scheme of Delegation Role profiles for the Leader and the Chief Executive Leaders Meeting 		
2.4 Make a senior officer (the S95 Officer) responsible to the authority for ensuring appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining effective systems of internal financial control.	 Scheme of Delegation Chief Financial Officer is s95 Officer Financial Regulations August 2011 Annual Report and Accounts Financial Strategy 		
2.5 Make a senior officer (usually the monitoring officer) responsible to the authority for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.	 Head of Legal and Democratic Services is Monitoring Officer Scheme of Delegation Scheme of Administration Standing Orders Relating to Contracts Financial Regulations Internal Audit Reports highlighting any breaches in standing orders or financial regulations 		

Supporting Principle				
3. Ensuring relationships between the authority LA Requirement	y, its partners and the public are clear so that ea	ch know what to exp	ect of the other. Action Plan Ref	
3.1 Develop protocols to ensure effective communication between members and officers in their respective roles.	Member/Officer Protocol Protocol for Members working within multi-member wards	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Flan Rei	
3.2 Ensure that an established scheme for remuneration of members and officers and an effective structure for managing the process including an effective remuneration panel (if applicable) are in place.	 Scheme of Members' salaries and expenses Chief Executive salary set by COSLA Chief Officer salary set as a percentage of Chief Executive salary Employee pay and grading model August 2008 Job evaluation scheme Job evaluation scheme appeals process 			
3.3 Ensure that effective mechanisms exist to monitor service delivery.	 Public Performance Reporting CDIP Performance Reports SOA Annual Report Committee Reports SOLACE Benchmarking Report Budget Monitoring Reports Annual Governance Reviews of ALEO's CHCP 6 monthly OPR Reporting to Committee Outcome Delivery Group reporting to Inverclyde Alliance 			
3.4 Ensure that the authority's vision, corporate plans, priorities and targets are developed, through robust mechanisms, and in consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders, and that they are clearly articulated and disseminated.	Citizens' Panel CECBN Action Plan Community Engagement Strategy Adoption of Community Engagement Standards Community Council's Guidance Reports to Committee CHCP People Involvement Framework			

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
3.5 When working in partnership ensure that members are clear about their roles and responsibilities both individually and collectively in relation to the partnership and to the authority.	Inverclyde Alliance MOU CHCP Scheme of Establishment/Scheme of Delegation		
3.6 When working in partnership, ensure that there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership; and ensure that representatives of organisations both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions.	 Inverclyde Alliance MOU SOA 2013-17 CHCP Scheme of Establishment/Scheme of Delegation 		

Principle 3

Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

Supporting Principle

1. Ensuring authority members and officers exercise leadership by behaving in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct and effective governance

	LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
4.4			∟valuation (1-4)	ACTION FIAM REI
1.1	Ensure that the authority's leadership sets	Code of Conduct for Elected Members		
	a tone for the organisation by creating a	Code of Conduct for Employees		
	climate of openness, support and respect.	3. New Member Induction Programme		
		4. Standing Orders		
		Committee Meeting Timetable		
		6. Committee Minutes and Agendas		
		7. Annual Governance Statement		
		8. FOI Publication Scheme		
1.2	Ensure that standards of conduct and	Employee Code of Conduct		
	personal behaviour expected of members	2. Code of Conduct for Elected Members		
	and staff, of work between members and	3. Member/Officer Protocol		
	staff and between the authority, its	4. Employee Performance Appraisals		
	partners and the community are defined	5. New Member Induction Programme		
	and communicated through codes of	6. New Employee Corporate Induction		
	conduct and protocols.	7. Anti-Fraud and Irregularity Policy		
	·	8. Complaints Policy and Procedures		
1.3	Put in place arrangements to ensure that	Standing Orders Relating to Contracts		
	members and employees of the authority	Code of Conduct for Employees		
	are not influenced by prejudice, bias or	3. Code of Conduct for Members		
	conflicts of interest in dealing with different	4. Register of Interests for Members		
	stakeholders and put in place appropriate	5. Conflicts of Interest Procedures		
	processes to ensure that they continue to	6. Register of Gifts and Hospitality		
	operate in practice.	7. Equalities Policy		

Supporting Principle					
2. Ensuring that organisational values are put i	2. Ensuring that organisational values are put into practice and are effective				
LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref		
2.1 Develop and maintain shared values including leadership values for both the organisation and staff reflecting public expectations, and communicating these with members, staff, the community and partners.	 Code of Conduct for Elected Members Code of Conduct for Employees Corporate Statement 2013-2017 CHCP Statement of Values CHCP Director's Brief 				
2.2 Put in place arrangements to ensure that systems and processes are designed in conformity with appropriate ethical standards, and monitor their continuing effectiveness in practice.	 Code of Conduct for Elected Members Code of Conduct for Employees 				
2.3 Develop and maintain an effective standards committee (or ensure the function is undertaken by an appropriate equivalent).	Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life Scotland				
2.4 Use the organisation's shared values to act as a guide for decision making and as a basis for developing positive and trusting relationships within the authority.	 Corporate Statement Inverclyde Alliance MOU CHCP Scheme of Establishment 				
2.5 In pursuing the vision of a partnership, agree a set of values against which decision making and actions can be judged. Such values must be demonstrated by partners' behaviour both individually and collectively.	 Inverclyde Alliance MOU SOA 2013-17 CHCP Scheme of Establishment 				

Principle 4 Taking informed and transparent decisions v	which are subject to effective scrutiny and ma	anaging risk			
Supporting Principle					
1. Being rigorous and transparent about how d	ecisions are taken and listening and acting on th	ne outcome of constru	uctive scrutiny.		
LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref		
1.1 Develop and maintain an effective scrutiny	Scheme of Administration sets out the				
function which encourages constructive	role of scrutiny function within Service				
challenge and enhances the authority's	Committees				
performance overall and that of any	Committee Minutes and Agendas				
organisation for which it is responsible					
1.2 Develop and maintain open and effective	Scheme of Delegation				
mechanisms for documenting evidence for	2. Corporate Committee Reporting Format				
decisions and recording the criteria,	Guidelines				
rationale and considerations on which	Minutes of Committee Meetings				
decisions are based	4. Committee Reports				
1.3 Put in place arrangements to safeguard	Code of Conduct for Employees				
members and employees against conflicts	Code of Conduct for Elected Members				
of interest and put in place appropriate	Register of Gifts and Hospitality				
processes to ensure that they continue to	4. Committee Minutes showing declarations				
operate in practice	of interest sought and declarations made				
	5. Elected Member Training				
1.4 Develop and maintain an effective audit	Scheme of Administration				
committee (or equivalent) which is	2. Audit Committee chaired by opposition				
independent of the executive and scrutiny	group				
functions or make other appropriate	Review all Internal and External audit				
arrangements for the discharge of the	reports				
functions of such a committee.					
1.5 Ensure that effective, transparent and	IC Complaints Policy				
accessible arrangements are in place for	2. CHCP Complaints Monitoring				
dealing with complaints.	Scottish Public Services Ombudsman				

Supporting Principle 2. Having good-quality information, advice and support to ensure that services are delivered effectively and are what the community wants/needs **LA Requirement Evidence** Evaluation (1-4) **Action Plan Ref** 2.1 Ensure that those making decisions. 1. Corporate Committee Reporting Format whether for the authority or the Guidelines 2. Pre-agenda meetings partnership, are provided with information that is fit for purpose – relevant, timely 3. Committee timetable and gives clear explanations of technical 4. Committee papers issued in line with issues and their implications. legislative requirements and standing orders 2.2 Ensure that professional advice on 1. Council Minutes matters that have legal or financial 2. Council Reports implications is available and recorded well 3. Corporate Committee Reporting Format in advance of decision making and used Guidelines appropriately. **Supporting Principle** 3. Ensuring that an effective risk management system is in place. **Action Plan Ref** LA Requirement **Evidence** Evaluation (1-4) 3.1 Ensure that risk management is 1. Risk Management Strategy embedded into the culture of the authority, 2. Corporate Risk Register 3. Service Risk Registers with members and managers at all levels recognising that risk management is part 4. Project Risk Registers 5. Operational Risk Management Group of their jobs. 6. Audit Committee oversight of Risk Management 7. Annual Report on Risk Management Activity 3.2 Ensure that arrangements are in place for Code of Conduct for Employees contains whistleblowing to which staff and all those Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) contracting with the authority have Policy 2. Anti-Fraud and Irregularity Policy access. 3. On the Fiddle E-Learning module

Supporting Principle						
4. Using their legal powers to the full benefit of	4. Using their legal powers to the full benefit of the citizens and communities in their areas					
LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref			
4.1 Actively recognise the limits of lawful activity placed on them by, for example, the ultra vires doctrine but also strive to utilise powers to the full benefit of their communities.	 Financial Regulations Standing Orders Scheme of Administration Scheme of Delegation Planning Scheme of Delegation Legal Implications considered as part of Committee Report 					
4.2 Recognise the limits of lawful action and observe both the specific requirements of legislation and the general responsibilities placed on local authorities by public law.	 Elected Members Training Programme Corporate FOI and DPA Training Brightwave E-Learning Training on Information Security Equality and Diversity Awareness Training 					
4.3 Observe all specific legislative requirements placed upon them, as well as the requirements of general law, and in particular to integrate the key principles of good administrative law – rationality, legality and natural justice – into their procedures and decision-making processes.	 Monitoring Officer Role Financial Regulations Standing Orders Scheme of Administration Scheme of Delegation Planning Scheme of Delegation Legal Implications considered as part of Committee Report 					

Principle 5 Developing the capacity and capabilities of members and officers to be effective **Supporting Principle** 1. Making sure that members and officers have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources they need to perform their roles well. Evaluation (1-4) LA Requirement **Evidence Action Plan Ref** 1. Induction Programme for Members 1.1 Provide induction programmes tailored to individual needs and opportunities for 2. E-Learning Corporate Induction for members and officers to update their emplovees knowledge on a regular basis. 3. Induction Guidelines for Managers 4. CHCP Induction Programme for employees 5. Member Induction Programme 6. Personal Development Plans for Members 7. Performance Appraisal Process and Personal Development Plans for employees 8. Corporate Training Calendar 9. Brightwave e-learning packages 10. CHCP Training Catalogue and database 1.2 Ensure that the statutory officers have the 1. Job Descriptions and person skills, resources and support necessary to specifications for statutory officer roles 2. Performance Appraisal Process for perform effectively in their roles and that these roles are properly understood employees throughout the authority. 3. Personal Development Plans for emplovees 4. Leadership Development Programme 5. Scheme of Delegation

Supporting Principle

2. Developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance, as individuals and as a group.

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
2.1 Assess the skills required by members and officers and make a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively.	 Personal Development Plans for Elected Members Performance Appraisal Process for employees Personal Development Plans for employees 		
2.2 Develop skills on a continuing basis to improve performance, including the ability to scrutinize and challenge and to recognise when outside expert advice is needed.	 Personal Development Plans for Elected Members Performance Appraisal Process for employees Personal Development Plans for employees Leadership Development Programme for employees Brightwave e-learning packages Organisational Development Strategy 2013-2016 		
2.3 Ensure that effective arrangements are in place for reviewing the performance of the executive as a whole and of individual members and agreeing an action plan which might, for example, aim to address any training or development needs.	 Personal Development Plans for Elected Members Performance Appraisal Process for employees Personal Development Plans for employees Complaints Procedures 		

Supporting Principle				
3. Encouraging new talent for membership of the authority so that best use can be made of individuals skills and resources in balancing continuity and renewal.				
3.1 Ensure that effective arrangements are in place designed to encourage individuals from all sections of the community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the authority.	Community Plan Corporate Statement Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans			
3.2 Ensure that career structures are in place for members and officers to encourage participation and development.	 Personal Development Plans for Elected Members Performance Appraisal process for staff Management/Leadership Development Programmes Organisational Development Strategy includes succession planning as a key theme 			

Principle 6

Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

Supporting Principle

1. Exercise leadership through a robust scrutiny function which effectively engages local people and all local institutional stakeholders, including partnerships, and develops constructive accountability relationships.

	LA Requirement Evidence Evaluation (1-4) Action Plan				Action Plan Ref
1.1	Make clear to themselves, all staff and the	1.		Evaluation (1-4)	Action Flan Nei
1.1	,				
	community to whom they are accountable	2.	1 - 7 7 -		
	and for what.	3.	Citizens' Panel		
		4.	CECBN Action Plan		
		5.	CDIP Guidance		
		6.	Self Evaluation Guidance		
		7.	SOA 2013-2017		
		8.	Corporate Statement		
		9.	Inverclyde Council Website		
1.2	Consider those institutional stakeholders	1.	Citizens' Panel Database		
	to whom the authority is accountable and	2.	Citizens' Panel Newsletters		
	assess the effectiveness of the	3.	CDIPs		
	relationships and any changes required.	4.	Community Council Engagement		
		5.	CHCP Stakeholders Database (Your		
			Voice, Cares Centre and CVJ)		
1.3	Produce an annual report on the activity of	1.	Annual Report and Accounts		
	the scrutiny function.	2.	SOA Annual Report		
	•	3.	Annual Public Performance Report		

Supporting Principle

2. Taking an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public to ensure effective and appropriate service delivery whether directly by the authority, in partnership or by commissioning.

	LA Requirement		Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref
ar cc pu	nsure clear channels of communication re in place with all sections of the ommunity and other stakeholders, and ut in place monitoring arrangements to assure that they operate effectively.	1. 2. 3. 4.	Council Website Complaints Policy Citizens' Panel InView Magazine		
	old meetings in public unless there are bood reasons for confidentiality.	1.	Council Standing Orders ensure that all meetings of the Council and Committees are open to the public unless there are specific items exempt in terms of Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973		
er se Tr th ha	nsure that arrangements are in place to hable the authority to engage with all ections of the community effectively. Hese arrangements should recognize at different sections of the community eave different priorities and establish explicit processes for dealing with these competing demands.	1. 2. 3. 4.	·		
2.4 Es iss er ab th	stablish a clear policy on the types of sues they will meaningfully consult on or ngage with the public and service users pout including a feedback mechanism for ose consultees to demonstrate what has een changed as a result.	1. 2. 3.	Citizens' Panel Newsletters CHCP Advisory Forum InView Magazine		
pe th fir at sa	n an annual basis, publish a erformance plan giving information on e authority's vision, strategy, plans and nancial statements as well as information bout its outcomes, achievements and atisfaction of service users in the revious period.		Public Performance Report SOA Annual Report Annual Report and Accounts		

Evaluation Criteria:

LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref		
2.6 Ensure that the authority as a whole is	Publication Scheme				
open and accessible to the community,	2. Compliance with Freedom of Information				
service users and its staff and ensure that	(Scotland) Act 2005				
it has made a commitment to openness	3. Minutes and Agendas are on website and				
an transparency in all its dealings,	in public libraries				
icnIduing partnerships, subject only to the	4. On-line E-Planning				
need to preserve confidentiality in those	5. InView Magazine				
specific circumstances where it is proper					
and appropriate to do so.					
Supporting Principle					
3. Making best use of human resources by taking an active and planned approach to meet responsibility to staff.					
LA Requirement	Evidence	Evaluation (1-4)	Action Plan Ref		
3.1 Develop and maintain a clear policy on	Joint Budget Group with Trade Unions				
how staff and their representatives are	2. Employee Surveys				
consulted and involved in decision					
making.					

Local Code of Governance – Action Plan

Action Plan Reference	Agreed Action	Responsibility	Date