

ANNEX A

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Ryedale District Council recognises that:-

- (i) Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and, ultimately, good outcomes for citizens and service users;
- (ii) Good governance enables local authorities to pursue their visions in an effective manner, as well as underpinning their visions with appropriate mechanisms for control and management of risk;
- (iii) All authorities should aim to meet the standards of the best and governance arrangements should not only be sound, but also be seen to be sound;
- (iv) Governance is about how local government bodies ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner; and
- (v) It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and, where appropriate, provides leadership to their communities.

Ryedale District Council is committed to applying the core principles set out in the SOLACE / CIPFA Good Governance Framework (2007) of:-

- √ Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
- √ Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
- √ Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
- √ Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
- √ Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective; and
- √ Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

Being mindful of the foregoing and, in particular, its duty to promote good governance within the District Council, within Ryedale and the wider North Yorkshire area, the District Council is satisfied that it already has a well established and robust Constitution and other good governance documents and arrangements in place.

The purpose of this “Local Code of Corporate Governance”, therefore, is to provide a simple document, with hyperlinks, to relevant documents relating to governance, which are already available on the Council’s website.

For any further information on the District Council’s Good Corporate Governance arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact:-

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Hyperlinks to key documents:

A - The Constitution:

• **Part A**

(which contains the Articles of the Constitution, the Terms of References of the Policy Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory and other Committees - including the Standards Committee and Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities).

• **Part B - The essential documents supporting the Constitution**

(which includes Standard Orders of the Council, Financial Regulations, Access to Information Procedure Rules, Executive Procedure Rules, Employee Procedure Rules, Scheme of Delegation to Officers, Code of Conduct for Members, Members Allowance Scheme, Member/Officer Relations Protocol, Code of Conduct for Officers and the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors and Officers).

B. Key policy documents:

- Council Plan
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Corporate Equalities Plan
- Sustainable Community Strategy

C. Key Budget & Risk Management documents:

- Council’s Annual Budget
- Annual Statement of Accounts

- External Audit Annual Letter
- Council's Risk Management Policy

D. Key Member, Officer and decision making links:

- Council Website - record of decisions database
- Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (the Audit Committee)

E. Key Counter Fraud documents:

- Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

F. Key miscellaneous links:

- Comments, Complaints and Compliments Procedure