

Charnwood Borough Council

CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. Introduction

Charnwood Borough Council is committed to the principles of good corporate governance and wishes to confirm its ongoing commitment and intentions through the development, adoption and continued maintenance of a Code of Corporate Governance.

This document therefore sets out and describes our commitment to corporate governance. It identifies the arrangements that have been made, and will continue to be made, to ensure its effective implementation and application in all aspects of our work.

2. What is Corporate Governance?

For the purpose of this Code, Charnwood Borough Council has accepted the definition of Corporate Governance as follows:

“Corporate Governance is the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities”.

We recognise that effective local government relies upon establishing and maintaining public confidence in both elected Members and Officers of the Council.

3. The Principles of Good Governance

Charnwood Borough Council positively recognises and accepts the following principles of good governance:

- **Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area**
 - Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority’s purpose and vision and its intended outcomes for citizens and service users
 - Ensuring that users receive a high quality of service whether directly, or in partnership, or by commissioning
 - Ensuring that the authority makes best use of resources and that tax payers and service users receive excellent value for money

- **Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles**
 - 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
 - Ensuring that a constructive working relationship exists between the authority members and officers and that the responsibilities of authority members and officers are carried out to a high standard
 - Ensuring relationships between the authority and the public are clear so that each knows what to expect of the other.

- **Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour**
 - Ensuring authority members and officers exercise leadership by behaving in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct and effective governance
 - Ensuring that organisational values are put into practice and are effective

- **Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk**
 - Being rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken and listening and acting on the outcome of constructive scrutiny
 - Having good quality information, advice and support to ensure that services are delivered effectively and are what the community wants/needs
 - Ensuring that an effective risk management system is in place
 - Using their legal powers to the full benefit of the citizens and communities in their area

- **Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective**
 - Making sure that members and officers have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources they need to perform well in their roles
 - Developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance, as individuals and as a group
 - 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

- **Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability**
 - Exercising leadership through a robust scrutiny function which effectively engages local people and all local institutional stakeholders, including partnerships, and develops constructive accountability relationships
 - 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
 - Making best use of human resources by taking an active and planned approach to meet responsibility to staff.

4. Review

Charnwood Borough Council has given its Performance & Audit Scrutiny Committee the role of supporting the Council in securing compliance with, and regularly reviewing this Code.

The Code will be reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains current and continues to reflect best practice in respect of good governance, and this will include a review of compliance with the Code as part of the work required for the production of the Annual Governance Statement.