

Foreword - Dorset Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. It needs to ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the Council to conduct a review, at least once a year, on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include an Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

1. Good Governance in the Public Sector

1.1 In 2014, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) collaborated to produce The International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector. The diagram (table 1) illustrates the core principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other: Principles A and B permeates implementation of principles C to G. The Framework sets the standard for local authority governance in the UK. The purpose of the Framework is to assist authorities individually in reviewing and accounting for their own unique approach, with the overall aim to ensure that:

- Resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities
- There is sound and inclusive decision making
- There is clear accountability for the use of those resources to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities

2. Corporate Governance

2.1 Corporate governance is about how we ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. Good governance means that we have the right systems, processes, cultures and values in place, to ensure that we account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead our communities. It also means that our elected members and staff will conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of conduct. We are committed to effective corporate governance.

- 2.2 Dorset Council embraces the following three over-arching elements of good corporate governance and continually works to ensure that they underpin the delivery of the services:
- Openness and inclusivity - being open through consultation with stakeholders providing access to accurate and clear information. To ensure that all can engage effectively with the decision-making processes and actions of Dorset Council.
 - Integrity - based upon honesty, selflessness and objectivity. High standards of propriety and transparency in the stewardship of funds and management of the council's business.
 - Accountability - members and officers are responsible for their decisions and actions.
- 2.3 Dorset Council remains committed to the principles of good corporate governance and confirms its ongoing commitment and intentions through the development, adoption, monitoring and maintenance of its code of corporate governance. The council recognises that achieving high standards of corporate governance encourages stakeholders to have confidence in the authority and helps to enable the council to undertake its leadership role.
- 2.4 The chief executive and leader will prepare the annual governance statement as part of the annual statement of accounts giving their opinion on whether the corporate governance arrangements are adequate and are operating effectively.
- 2.5 The council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this accountability, members and senior officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's business and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal. It requires having in place a framework of overarching strategic policies and objectives underpinned by robust systems, processes and structures for delivering these.
- 2.6 We recognise that the delivery of our strategic policies and objectives cannot be done in isolation. We continue to engage with other statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector as well as private companies commissioned to deliver services. As such Dorset Council has an interest in ensuring that these partners have in place good governance arrangements.

**Achieving the Intended Outcomes
While Acting in the Public Interest at all Times**

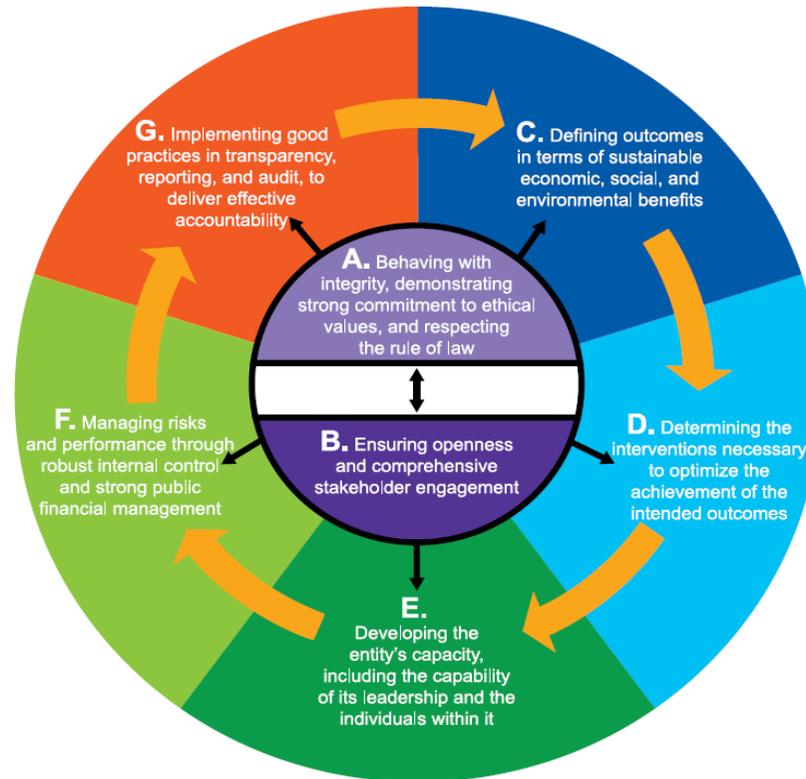


Table 1 - Dorset Council is committed to the seven core principles of good practice contained in the CIPFA framework. To confirm this, we test our governance arrangements by developing and maintaining an up-to-date local code of governance, including arrangements for ensuring ongoing effectiveness. Our Local Code has been written to reflect the Council's own structure, functions, and the governance arrangements in existence. It's comprised of the policies, procedures, behaviours, actions and values by which the Council is controlled and governed. Reviewing existing governance arrangements. The Council will monitor its governance arrangements for their effectiveness in practice and will review them on a continuing basis to ensure that they are up to date.

2.7 This review will include an assessment of the effectiveness of the processes contained within the Local Code and includes annual assessments:

- Departments' and corporate reviews of assurance arrangements - Internal Audit Annual Report including an opinion on the risk, governance and control environment and framework
- The opinions of other review agencies and inspectorates, including governance issues via ad hoc cases / disciplinary issues, police investigations

Reporting publicly on compliance with our own code on an annual basis and on how we have monitored the effectiveness of our governance arrangements in the year and on planned changes. Regulation 6(1)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Council to conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of our systems of internal control and include a statement reporting on the review with our published statement of Accounts. This is known as the Annual Governance Statement.

2.8 The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council certify the Annual Governance Statement to accompany the Annual Accounts which will assess how the Council has complied with our Local Code. An opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements will be provided together with details of how continual improvement in the systems of governance will be achieved.

Dorset Council’s Local Code is based on the following principles which we are always working towards with the overall aim of ‘Achieving the intended outcomes while acting in the public interest

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| Principles | |
| A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of the law | |
| Sub-Principals | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaving with integrity • Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values • Respecting the rule of law | |
| Dorset Council’s commitment to achieving good governance: | |
| To behave with integrity: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Ensuring members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood; • Leading by example and using the above standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions; • Demonstrating and communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively | Evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council constitution; • Scheme of Delegation; • Contract Standing Orders; • Officer and member codes of conduct; • Anti fraud and corruption strategy; • Complaints policy |
| To demonstrate strong commitment to ethical values | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the organisation's ethical standards and performance; • Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the organisation's culture and operation; | Evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistleblowing policy • Procurement strategy • Equality plan; • Job evaluation scheme; |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values; • Ensuring that external provider service on behalf of the organisation are required to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards expected by the organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for officer and member relations; • Behaviour framework; • Audit & Governance Committee |
| <p>To respect the rule of law</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations; • Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders, and members, and can fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements; • Striving to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholders; • Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively; • Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial regulations; • Audit & Governance Committee; • Officer and member codes of conduct; |

Principles

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Sub-Principals

- Openness
- Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders
- Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively

Dorset Council's commitment to achieving good governance:

To ensure openness

- Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness;
- 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;
- 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;
- Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/courses of action;

Evidenced by:

- Consultation and communication strategy;
- Dorset Council constitution;
- Freedom of Information compliance;
- Council plan;
- Dorset Council website;
- "Your Dorset" publication
- Pay statement
- Behaviour framework

To engage comprehensively with stakeholders

- Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that the outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably;
- Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively;
- Ensuring that partnerships are based on i) trust; ii) a shared commitment to change; iii) a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners; and that the added value of partnership working is explicit;

Evidenced by :

- Consultation and communication strategy
- Public consultations on key decisions / changes to policy;
- Equalities framework;
- Residents survey;
- Local Resilience Forum;
- Dorset Council constitution

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve communities, individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes;• Ensuring that communication methods are effective, and that members and officers are clear about their roles about community engagement;• Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds, including reference to future needs;• Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how views have been considered;• Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity;• Taking account of the impact of decisions on future generations of taxpayers and service users | |
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Principles

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Sub-Principals

- Defining outcomes
- Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

Dorset Council's commitment to achieving good governance:

To define outcomes

- Having a clear vision, which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provide the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions;
- Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer;
- Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available;
- Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes;
- Managing service users' expectations effectively about determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available

Evidenced by:

- Council plan;
- Equality & Diversity Action Group;
- Performance and risk reporting

To enable sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

- Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision;
- Taking a longer-term view about 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;
- 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;
- Ensuring fair access to services

Evidenced by:

- Committee report impacts sheet;
- Risk management;

Principles

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Sub-Principals

- Determining interventions
- Planning interventions
- Optimising achievement of intended outcomes

Dorset Council's commitment to achieving good governance:

To determine interventions

- Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options, indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and associated risks. Therefore, ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided;
- 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 with limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts

Evidenced by:

- Dorset Council constitution;
- Council plan;
- Service risk registers;
- Committee report and clearance process;
- Questions from the public agenda item;
- Overview committees
- Programme/Project management

To plan interventions

- Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets;
- Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered;
- Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risks;
- Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering goods and services can be adapted to changing circumstances;

Evidenced by:

- Member briefings;
- Portfolio holders;
- Service risk registers;
- Public consultations on key decisions / changes to policy;
- Programme/project management

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly; • Preparing budgets in accordance with objectives, strategies and the medium-term financial plan; • Inform medium- and long-term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy | |
| <p>To optimise achievement of intended outcomes</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the medium-term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints; • Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, considering the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term; • 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 for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage; • Ensuring the achievement of 'social value' through service planning and commissioning | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Strategy; • Annual Audit and Inspection letter • Scrutiny Committees |

Principles

E. Developing the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Sub-Principals

- Developing the entity’s capacity
- Developing the entity’s leadership
- Developing the capability of individuals within the entity

Dorset Council’s commitment to achieving good governance:

To develop capacity

- Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness;
- Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how resources are allocated so that defined outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently;
- Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved;
- Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources

Evidenced by:

- People strategy;
- Business intelligence team;
- Council plan;
- “My Roadmap” appraisals

To develop the capability of the leadership and other individuals

- Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained;
- Publishing a statement that specifies the type of decisions that are delegated and those that are reserve for the collective decision making of the governing body;
- Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of service and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and balance for each other's authority;
- Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective leadership and to enable the organisation to respond

Evidenced by:

- People strategy;
- Wellbeing strategy;
- Scheme of Delegation;
- “My Roadmap” appraisals and 1to1s;
- Close working with unions;
- Learning hub;
- Staffing Committee;
- Centralised HR team with business partner model;

successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental and changing risks by:

- i. ensuring officers and members have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that ongoing training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged.
 - ii. ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge and resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they can update their knowledge on a continuing basis.
 - iii. ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons learnt from governance weaknesses both internal and external
- Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation;
 - Taking steps to consider the leadership's own effectiveness and ensuring leaders are responsive to constructive feedback from peer review and inspections;
 - Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of learning and development needs;
 - 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

- Mentoring and coaching;
- Peer reviews and external inspections
- Staff consultative panels

Principles

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Sub-Principals

- Managing risk
- Managing performance
- Robust internal control
- Managing Data
- Strong public financial management

Dorset Council's commitment to achieving good governance:

To manage risks

- Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making;
- Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that they are working effectively;
- Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated

Evidenced by:

- Risk management policy statement
- Corporate and service risk registers, with clear risk owners
- Risk considerations within committee reports
- Reporting of significant risks to senior leadership teams and Audit and Governance Committee
- Business continuity framework
- Emergency plan

To manage performance

- Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review;
- 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;

Evidenced by:

- Performance reporting to Senior Leadership Team and Scrutiny Committees

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring an effective scrutiny or oversight function is in place which provides constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives before, during and after decisions are made, thereby enhancing the organisation's performance and that of any organisation for which it is responsible; • Providing members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement; • Ensuring there is consistency between specification stages (such as budgets) and post implementation reporting (financial statements) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact/Risk considerations within committee reports • Separate Overview and Scrutiny Committees • Portfolio holders |
| <p>To ensure robust internal control</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives; • Evaluating and monitoring risk management and internal control on a regular basis; • Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place; • Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and internal control is provided by the internal auditor; • Ensuring an audit committee or equivalent group / function, which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment; and ii. that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Audit Partnership • Chief Internal Auditors annual report • Internal audit plan aligned to corporate risk register themes • Anti-fraud and corruption policy • Whistleblowing policy • Quarterly reporting to Audit and Governance Committee • SWAP attendance at senior leadership teams |
| <p>To manage data</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data; • Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies; • Reviewing and auditing regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Compliance Team • Information Governance Board • Senior Information Risk Owner • Data sharing agreements • Information governance policies (including data protection) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information governance KPIs, reporting to Senior Leadership Team |
| To ensure strong public financial management | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance Ensuring well-developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPMI reports Medium Term Financial Plan Budget update reports to committee |

Principles

G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

Sub-Principals

- Implementing good practice in transparency
- Implementing good practices in reporting
- Assurance and effective accountability

Dorset Council's commitment to achieving good governance in practice includes:

To demonstrate good practice with transparency

- Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate;
- 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;

Evidenced by:

- Annual Governance Statement;
- Member allowances scheme;
- Annual audit report;
- Freedom of Information;
- Independent remuneration panel;
- Committee reports and clearance process;
- Mod Gov committee reports;

To implement good practices in reporting

- Report at least annually on performance, value for money and the stewardship of its resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable way;
- Ensuring members and senior management own the results reported;
- Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment, including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (the annual governance statement);
- Ensuring that this Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate;

Evidenced by:

- Council plan and supporting performance reporting
- Accountable officers for performance indicators
- Accountable officers for risks

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
| <p>To provide assurance and effective accountability</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, providing assurance about governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon; • Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations; • Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement; • Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met | <p>Evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and Governance Committee • Internal audit delivered by SWAP; • Monitoring and reporting of audit recommendations; |

Dorset Council's Local Code is based on principles which we are always working towards with the overall aim of achieving the intended outcomes while acting in the public interest – we have matched those principles here against key evidence

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Annual Accounts | The Annual Financial Statements are compiled, published to timetable and included on the council's website. | As at March 2021 the audit process for 2019-20 accounts has not yet been completed and they have not yet been signed-off. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual Governance Statement | The Annual Government Statement (AGS) sets out the council's governance framework and the results of the annual review of the effectiveness of the council's arrangements. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anti-fraud and corruption policy | The Council has in place an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy and has also implemented policies and procedures to mitigate the risks of bribery and corruption and money-laundering to conform with requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice – 'Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption' (2014) which are publicised across the organisation. A task and finish 'fraud' group has been established to oversee further development of the strategy. The Council has joined Cifas, the UK's largest cross sector fraud sharing organization. The Council is establishing a policy and supporting training framework for Corporate Criminal Offence. | During March 2021 an internal audit on Fraud and Whistleblowing identified a number of Priority 2 actions. These actions will be addressed by the fraud task and finish group. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business continuity | A business continuity framework has been developed, and a review undertaken during 2020 to ensure effective for critical services. These have also been subject to an external challenge by risk consultants as part of a risk support facility contained within the insurance contract. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Code of Conduct <table border="1" data-bbox="192 405 636 480"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | X | | | | | | | <p>Dorset Council's Constitution contains Codes of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained. Dorset Council support and promotes the maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members and has agreed criteria for assessing complaints against Members, which is published on the Council's website. The Employee's (Officer's) Code of Conduct sets out standards of behavior and conduct that the Council expects of its employees. This includes confidentiality, data protection and fraud prevention.</p> <p>The Member Code of Conduct includes Principles and rules of behaviour which cover, Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Honesty and Leadership. Members, in signing the Code, agree to comply with these principles. Employees Code of Conduct and Part 5B of the Constitution refers to the key principles in public life and standards. The promotion of high standards of conduct is one of the key areas of responsibility for the Audit and Governance Committee.</p> | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Committee Meetings <table border="1" data-bbox="192 948 636 1023"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table> | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | X | X | X | X | | X | X | <p>The Council's Political Structure and Roles are available on the Council's website and includes membership details and functions of all major committees as well as roles and responsibilities of Cabinet and other members. Appropriate Officers monitor reports to ensure propriety of decision making and that legal advice is included where necessary and appropriate. All members and Chief Officers are required to complete the 'Related Party Disclosure Form'. The Council maintains records of legal advice provided by officers to ensure it respects the rule of law.</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, all committees were cancelled, whilst legislation was established to permit virtual meetings. Virtual meetings were phased back in and a full schedule of virtual committees operative from 1 September 2020. These committees are viewable by the public, both with live streaming and afterwards.</p> | <p>The format of future committee meetings will be subject to further discussion, once there is clarification on legislation post May 2021.</p> |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Elections and Democratic Services | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee Meetings (Cont'd) | <p>Adoption of a clear and consistent reporting format in relation to committee reports. Agendas, reports (and minutes) are also published on the council's website in advance. Meetings are open to the public except in relation to exempt items. A 'forward plan' of items is in place and dates for submitting, publishing and distributing timely reports are set and adhered to. Records of decisions and supporting materials are available which can be found on the Council's website.</p> <p>Reports to and decisions taken by the Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Bodies and Regulatory Board are available on the Council's website. With Committees being held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic, meeting can also be viewed online, with both live streaming and access to recordings. Committee reports require report writers to identify options including how the intended actions would be achieved and associated risks. A committee clearance process ensures that portfolio holders and statutory officers can comment and challenge content ahead of publication. There are opportunities for all members (including non-executive) to inform/influence decision-making and policy development - The constitution sets out the opportunities for Members to formally participate in the democratic process.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| Complaint management | There are feedback and complaints mechanisms/reports in place to allow quality issues to be identified. A formal complaints policy which is publicly accessible is in place and an annual report on complaints is produced for all areas and is published, with quarterly reporting also established for both Scrutiny committees September 2020. The Assurance Service has implemented a culture of organisational learning into the complaints process. | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 1093 255 1129">A</td> <td data-bbox="255 1093 306 1129">B</td> <td data-bbox="306 1093 358 1129">C</td> <td data-bbox="358 1093 409 1129">D</td> <td data-bbox="409 1093 461 1129">E</td> <td data-bbox="461 1093 512 1129">F</td> <td data-bbox="512 1093 564 1129">G</td> </tr> </table> | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
| A | | | B | C | D | E | F | G | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 1129 255 1166">X</td> <td data-bbox="255 1129 306 1166"></td> <td data-bbox="306 1129 358 1166"></td> <td data-bbox="358 1129 409 1166">X</td> <td data-bbox="409 1129 461 1166"></td> <td data-bbox="461 1129 512 1166"></td> <td data-bbox="512 1129 564 1166"></td> </tr> </table> | X | | | X | | | | | |
| X | | | X | | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Communication | The Council uses social media to reach a growing number of residents and stakeholders. It also publishes a council magazine and has an active website. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table> | A | | B | C | D | E | F | G | | X | | | | | X | Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate. 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. Regular press releases and briefings with good press coverage. Council newsletter produced for all residents. |
| A | B | | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | |
| | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Communication and Engagement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consultation and engagement | A variety of arrangements are in place to engage with and involve other stakeholders including the business sector, health agencies, the Police, town & parish councils, rural communities and the voluntary and community sector. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table> | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | X | | X | | | X | Engaging with customers before planning and commissioning services is encouraged by the Council's Communications team. Regular media and web monitoring are in place to pick up informal feedback. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | |
| | X | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Communication and Engagement | The Council has adopted a clear framework for residents, service users and employees about public consultations. We have in house expertise in communication, engagement, research and survey design, equalities issues and legal issues, provides support and guidance and co-ordinates resources to ensure robust public consultations. Results of major consultations are published in bespoke reports, which are available HERE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | | | | | | | | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Constitution | | | | | | | | A revision of the constitution approved by full Council on 18 February 2020 included separating out overview and scrutiny functions. The new overview and scrutiny committees have been operative since September 2020. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | X | | X | | | | | | |
| Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic | | | | | | | | The Member and Officer protocol in the Constitution that sets out the formal basis of member-officer relationships. | |
| Contract Procedural Rules | | | | | | | | The Council's Contract Procedure Rules requires that when procuring a service due regard is paid as to how the contract will improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Dorset as required by the Public Service (Social Value) Act 2012. Achievement of social value is monitored regularly. A Strategic Commissioning and contracting approach are being embedded into the organisation including commissioning strategies and a clear commissioning cycle involving service review, evidence and consultation. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | | | X | | | | | | |
| Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic | | | | | | | | | |
| Council Plan | | | | | | | | The Council's overall vision is reflected in the Council Plan. The Council communicates with and takes account of feedback to review outcomes, so they reflect progress and wider changes. A variety of engagement, consultation and communication channels are in place to ensure that service users are aware of the financial and policy context and to help manage expectations. Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits through consultation where possible, to ensure appropriate trade-offs. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Head of Business Intelligence and Communications | | | | | | | | Reports showing progress against the Council Plan is published and scrutinised. | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | | | | | | | | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Declarations of interest | | | | | | | | Registers of Members' interests and records of gifts and hospitality are published on the Council's website. Members' Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interests that might lead to bias are recorded in minutes of meetings which are available on the Council's website. The Members' Register of Interests including gifts and hospitality is made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Elections and Democratic | | | | | | | | An employee policy is in place for acceptance of gifts and hospitality. The Monitoring Officer reviews the registers of interests and gifts and hospitality on an annual basis. Regular items appear on the Council's intranet reminding all employees of the Register of Interests, Register of Gifts and Hospitality and the Whistleblowing Procedure and arrangements are in place to enable employees to raise issues of concern and report any wrongdoing. | |
| Elected members | | | | | | | | Cabinet members each have a responsibility for a portfolio. Regular meetings are held with relevant Lead Members to brief them on developments in their service area and of issues of concern. The induction and member development programme were designed to ensure that members were equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills they require to perform their role to the benefit of the council and local communities. There was a significant level of engagement, consultation and preparation formulating the induction and training plan for the elected members of Dorset Council (DC) due to the volume of information needing to be communicated. The induction was then devised from this feedback and from conversations with a large range of officers. Approval for the plan was sought from both officers and outgoing councillors. Internal audit of the induction plan provided a "substantial" assurance that the council has robust arrangements in place for the induction and training of elected Members. | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| | X | | | X | | | | | |
| Service Manager for Elections and Democratic | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | | | | | | | | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------|---|
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| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Elected members (Cont'd) | <p>Learning and development opportunities are provided to elected councillors in accordance with its agreed Member Learning and Development Strategy. Compulsory training is provided to relevant members on Planning and Regulatory Matters and on Pensions. Regular briefings are provided to members on the key issues and challenges facing the Council.</p> <p>Mentoring is taking place within political groups and additional mentoring is available for councillors with specific portfolios or roles.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" data-bbox="192 563 636 667"> <tr> <td colspan="7">Emergency planning and response</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Service Manager for Assurance</p> | Emergency planning and response | | | | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | X | | X | | <p>The 2020/21 financial year has been dominated by the Covid-19 response. The Command and Control structure has been effective to-date throughout the Covid-19 response and concurrent incidents. Debriefing and lessons learnt processes have been held at both an authority and multi-agency (Local Resilience Forum) perspective with emergency response plans updated where appropriate.</p> <p>The Council has been an active part of the multi-agency Local Resilience Forum, with Strategic and Tactical Coordinating Groups coordinating the collective response and a Recovery Group. Senior Leadership Team held weekly (and more regularly when required) Covid focused meetings. An Incident Management Team operates weekly, feeding in (via the Silver officer) to both the multi-agency and senior leadership teams.</p> | Dorset Operations Group has been convened by the Council to manage and focus on Summer planning. |
| Emergency planning and response | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" data-bbox="192 1031 636 1134"> <tr> <td colspan="7">Equality and diversity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Service Manager for Business Intelligence</p> | Equality and diversity | | | | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | X | X | X | | X | | | <p>The Council encourages and supports a diverse workforce and variety of workplace support groups, such that it has been recognised as a sector leader by Stonewall. The Council's Equalities Board actively monitors and supports a diverse workforce and recruitment processes have been strengthened to ensure fair representation of different groups. A series of equality, diversity and inclusion workshops have been held through 2020-21 and a new equality and diversity strategy approved.</p> | |
| Equality and diversity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | | | | | | | | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| External audit, inspections and review | | | | | | | | External Audit provides an annual opinion on the Council's financial statements and arrangements. The Council engages in peer challenge, reviews, accreditations and inspections from regulatory bodies to ensure it remains accountable for the quality of services its delivers as well to support continuous improvement. | As at March 2021 the audit process for 2019-20 accounts has not yet been completed and they have not yet been signed-off. |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Executive Director for Corporate Development | | | | | | | | The information compliance team coordinates the Council's information governance arrangements, headed up by the Data Protection Officer. This includes coordinating freedom of information requests and data breaches. Information Governance Board has been established, chaired by the Senior Information Risk Officer with cross-Directorate representation. Mandatory training for managers has been implemented on data protection and information management as well as cyber risk training. A partnership information sharing protocol, and information sharing agreements are put in place where required. Policies that govern the use of data, and corporate data standards are in place. | Compliance with mandatory data protection training remains low (circa 40%). The training module has been improved and further communication and monitoring established, including a KPI on compliance. Work is ongoing to improve compliance. |
| Information governance | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | | | | | X | | | | |
| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | Effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment is tested throughout the year through the implementation of a risk based Internal Audit Annual Plan and by operational audits. The internal audit function is delivered by South West Audit Partnership, and reports on a quarterly basis to the Audit and Governance Committee. SWAP and Assurance Team are working together to ensure that senior managers are addressing report recommendations. The audit plan is aligned to the 21 key risk themes identified in the corporate risk register. The Audit Service abides with the principles of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, but some development is required before full conformance can be claimed. | |
| Internal audit | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Medium Term Financial Strategy | <p>The medium-term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints. This includes ensuring that the budgeting process is all-inclusive and considers the full cost of operations. Budgets are prepared in accordance with objectives, strategies. Monthly budget monitoring reports on the MTFS (capital and revenue) are provided to senior management and committees. The performance framework makes use of a reporting by exception which require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation of why a target is being missed/an item is off-track - an action plan identifying how this will be rectified • timeline for returning to within tolerance (path to green) - an accountable officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>F</td><td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | X | | X | X | | | | | |
| A | | | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| People strategy and delivery plan | <p>The Council's People Strategy and Delivery Plan is in place. As with all the goals, there is a commitment to achieve them. Some of the commitments for engaging our people are facilitate meaningful 'big conversations' through our employee forum, which is open to all employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a leadership forum, to bring together our people leaders on a regular basis • undertake regular, valuable, two-way engagement, through a range of internal communications channel <p>The more employees can see on how their feedback is used positively, the more engaged they will be – leading us to be more motivated and more productive. Council Learning and Development plans are informed by the MTFS; Strategic Vision; Departmental key aims; service plans. Induction training is provided for all new employees with access to on-going Learning and Development activities to enhance skills.</p> <p>We have a mentoring and coaching offering for staff. The Council has introduced regular Hive Staff Surveys during 2020. You can find out more about Hive here</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>F</td><td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | X | | | | |
| A | | | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Organisational Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | | | | | | | | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Performance monitoring | | | | | | | | <p>Outcomes associated with measuring the successful delivery of the council plan and oversight of the council's overall performance reporting consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly reporting on progress with the Dorset Council Plan to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Cabinet. Reporting on performance: monthly to CLT/ SLT; monthly to performance leadership group and quarterly to members. Quarterly risk management and internal audit updates to Audit and Governance Committee. The Committee has an assurance role. <p>These actions are tracked through a dedicated action tracking process with regular status updates at subsequent performance meetings. New actions will be identified as part of the performance management meeting and added into the tracking process. All indicators have a nominated lead officer.</p> | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| | | | X | | X | | | | |
| Service Manager for Business Intelligence | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy framework | | | | | | | | <p>Demonstrating and communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively.</p> | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| X | | | | | | | Leading by example and using the above standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions. | | |
| Service Manager for Business Intelligence | | | | | | | | | |
| Risk Management | | | | | | | | <p>The Risk and Resilience Officer has been liaising with the Audit and Governance committee to develop a new approach to risk management. Work is underway to develop a training regime. The corporate risk register identifies 21 key risk themes, which are underpinned by detailed service level risks. Progress has been made with the audit plan and work continues to provide a better understanding for accountable officers on service risks and the effectiveness of internal controls. SWAP will provide any necessary challenge and support. Risk management update reports are considered by Audit and Governance Committee on a quarterly basis.</p> | <p>Following local government organisation and transition into Dorset Council, time is right to undertake a thorough assurance mapping exercise, aligned to the risk and internal audit frameworks.</p> |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | |
| | | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Service Manager for Assurance | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Risk Management (Cont'd) | <p>A revised Risk Management Strategy was produced that helped to provide information on risk development and helped to provide a better understanding.</p> <p>These reports provide a view on High risks across all directorate services. A summary page (Snapshot on Performance) also helps to provide focus with a series of graphs and headline statements. Through regular reporting we aim to provide assurance that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council continues to consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management arrangements • regular update reports on all risk management activities will be produced • the development and management of the implementation of an integrated risk management framework • a review and development of the council's risk management approach be undertaken • the ethos and, promotion of the effectiveness of good risk management throughout the Council be delivered through risk management training <p>A key performance indicator and supporting commentary on risk forms part of the performance management reporting to senior leadership teams and elected members.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Statutory officers</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">B</td> <td style="text-align: center;">C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">G</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table> | Statutory officers | | | | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | X | Head of Paid Service is the Chief Executive and is responsible for all council employees and serving an effective county organisation. | |
| Statutory officers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic | <p>Executive Director for Corporate Development is the Council's Section 151 Officer responsible for safeguarding the Council's financial position and ensuring value for money. There is compliance with CIPFA Statements on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer 2016.</p> <p>The Corporate Director (Legal and Democratic Services Monitoring Officer) is responsible for ensuring legality and promoting high standards of conduct in</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Key Evidence and Owner | Description | Gaps in Internal Control and Key improvements for 2021 - 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Statutory officers (cont) | <p>public life.</p> <p>Under Section 18(2) of the Children Act 2004, Local Authorities in England have a duty to appoint a Director of Children’s Services. Section 6(1) of the Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities in England to appoint a Director of Adult Services.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" data-bbox="192 485 636 592"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Transformation</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Service Manager for Transformation</p> | Transformation | | | | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | X | | | | | <p>Ensuring fair access to services. Our transformation programme includes management of our property and assets as a key theme. The Plan provides the long - term strategy within which the Council manages and maintains its transport network. During October 2020 Local Government Chronicle Awards 2020 Dorset Council won an award for Business Transformation – for creating the two new unitary councils (jointly with BCP). We were delighted to have been recognised and win an award jointly with BCP Council for the programme to create the two new unitary councils. Everyone involved acknowledged that it was an enormous task to undertake and that all employees had played a part in the creation of Dorset Council.</p> | |
| Transformation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" data-bbox="192 844 636 951"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Transparency</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Service Manager for Communication and Consultation / Service Manager for Assurance</p> | Transparency | | | | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | X | | | | | X | <p>Agendas, reports and minutes are published on the council’s website. Committee reports, and debates are made available online to the public. During the Covid-19 response, essential Committee meetings have been maintained and carried out virtually. These remain transparent and available for viewing by the public. The Annual Financial Statements are compiled, published to timetable and included on the council’s website. A pay policy statement is published annually.</p> <p>Freedom of Information practices are in place to publish responses to requests. Important data is published in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code (2015), as are our performance reports and findings. Local Government Transparency Code 2015 is issued to meet the Government’s desire to place more power into citizens’ hands to increase democratic accountability and make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision-making process and help shape public services.</p> | |
| Transparency | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | X | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

