

Governance Survey 2022

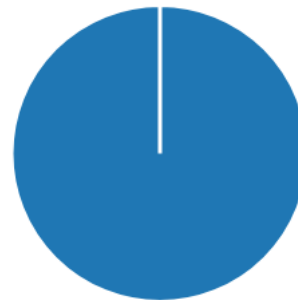
9
Responses

15:31
Average time to complete

Closed
Status

1. Do you understand the role and purpose of the Governance Committee, as detailed in its Terms of Reference?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



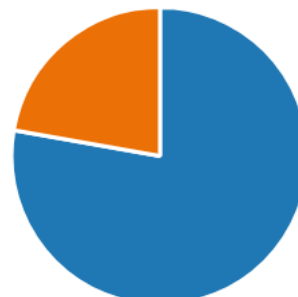
2. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest
Responses:
None

3. Has the Governance Committee been provided with sufficient membership, authority and resources to perform its role effectively and independently?

● Yes	7
● No	2
● Don't know	0



4. Additional comments / action

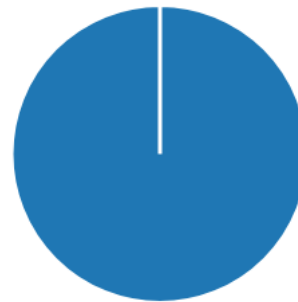
3
Responses

Latest Responses

"Allow members facility to agenda items for overview and scrutiny"
"Meetings have been inquorate on occasion "

5. Does the Governance Committee make a formal annual report on its work and performance during the year to Full Council?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



6. Additional comments / action

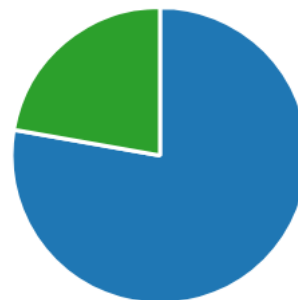
1
Responses

Latest Responses

"and a half yearly report"

7. Has the Governance Committee Chair either previous knowledge of, or received appropriate training on, financial and risk management, accounting concepts and standards, and the regulatory regime?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	2



8. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

9. When you joined the Governance Committee were you provided with appropriate induction training?

- Yes 9
- No 0



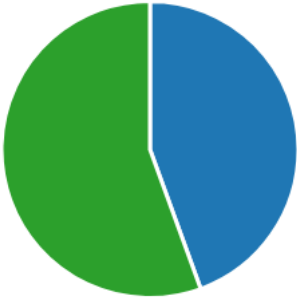
10. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

11. Have all Members' skills and experiences been assessed and training given for identified gaps?

- Yes 4
- No 0
- Don't know 5



12. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

13. Does each Member declare their business interests at each Committee meeting?

● Yes	8
● No	1



14. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

15. Are Members sufficiently independent of the Council's other key Committees?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1



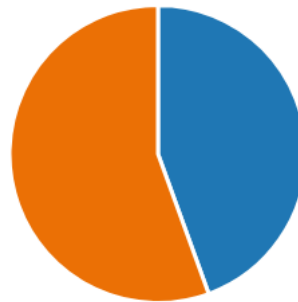
16. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

17. Are members attending meetings on a regular basis and, if not, is appropriate action taken?

● Yes	4
● No	5
● Don't know	0



18. Additional comments / action

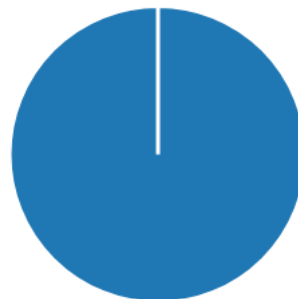
Latest Responses:

4
Responses

"Members must turn up for meetings"
"Some times we struggle to get a quorum"
"Very poor attendance record among some members which has resulted in the committee being inquorate on a number of occasions."

19. Are meetings free and open without political influences being displayed?

● Yes	9
● No	0



20. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

21. Does the authority's Section 151 officer or deputy attend all meetings?

- Yes 9
- No 0



22. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

23. Does the Governance Committee consider the accuracy and completeness of the Annual Governance Statement?

- Yes 9
- No 0
- Don't know 0



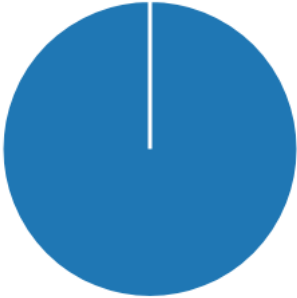
24. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

25. Does the Governance Committee provide sufficient challenge to management to confirm controls are effective, or to assess management progress to address weaknesses?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



26. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

27. Has the Governance Committee considered how it integrates with other committees that may have responsibility for risk management?

● Yes	5
● No	1
● Don't know	3



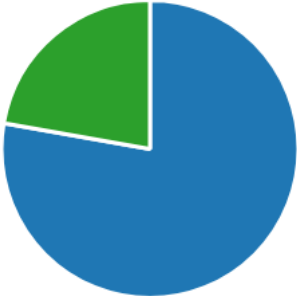
28. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

29. Has the Governance Committee (with delegated responsibility) or the Full Council adopted "Managing the Risk of Fraud - Actions to Counter Fraud and Corruption"? (this is a CIPFA publication).

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	2



30. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

31. Does the Governance Committee ensure that the "Actions to Counter Fraud and Corruption" are being implemented?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



32. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

33. Is there consideration by the Governance Committee on whether the Internal Audit Plan is focused on areas of highest risk and concern to the council, and does it provide good coverage of all key areas?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1



34. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

35. Does the Governance Committee effectively discuss the risks identified in the Authority's Strategic Risk Register?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0

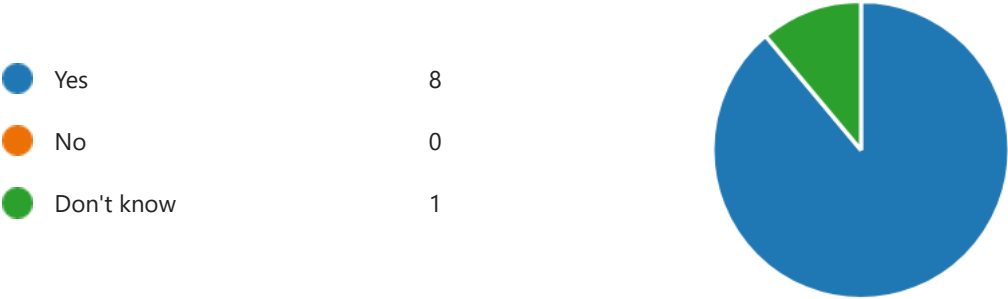


36. Additional comments / action

2
Responses

Latest Responses:
"very thoroughly"

37. Does the Governance Committee assess management action to mitigate those risks?

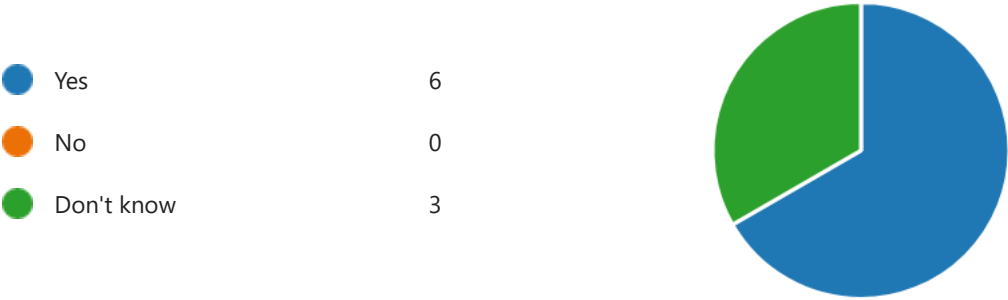


38. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

39. Does the Governance Committee consider specifically: • the suitability of accounting policies and treatments • major judgments made • large write-offs • changes in accounting treatment • the reasonableness of accounting estimates the narrative aspects of reporting?



40. Additional comments / action

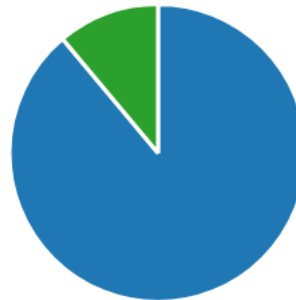
Latest Responses

"Not sure about - large write off's. Don't remember the large budgetary overrun of the old waste and recycling dept coming to governance"

2
Responses

41. Is a Governance Committee meeting scheduled to receive the external Auditor's report to those charged with governance including a discussion of proposed adjustments to the accounts and other issues arising from the Governance?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1



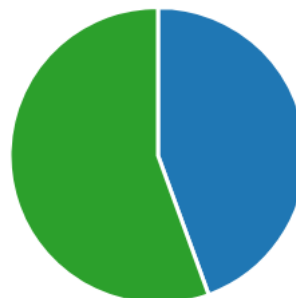
42. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

43. Does the Governance Committee review management's Letter of Representation?

● Yes	4
● No	0
● Don't know	5



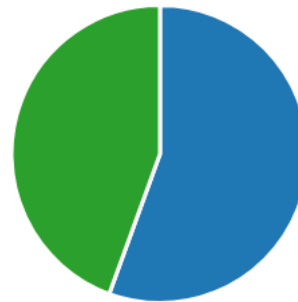
44. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

45. Does the Governance Committee have a mechanism to keep it aware of topical legal and regulatory issues, for example by receiving circulars and through training?

● Yes	5
● No	0
● Don't know	4



46. Additional comments / action

3
Responses

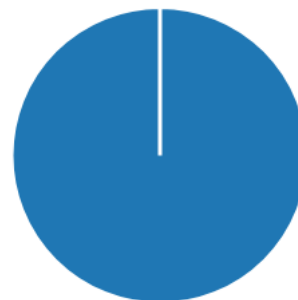
Latest Responses:

"Circulars yes - additional training - not sure 'bout that one"

"I'm relatively new to the committee so not sure if all the answers"

47. Does the Governance Committee approve, annually and in detail, the internal Governance strategic and annual plans including consideration of whether the scope of internal Governance work addresses the authority's significant risks?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



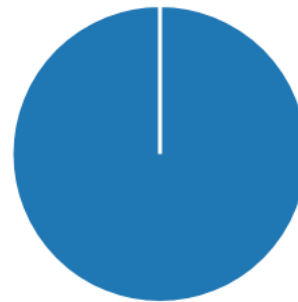
48. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

49. Does the Governance Committee receive periodic reports from the Internal Audit Service, including an annual report from the Head of Internal Audit?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



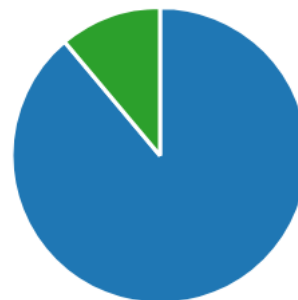
50. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

51. Are follow-up audits by internal audit monitored by the Governance Committee and does the Committee consider the adequacy of implementation of recommendations?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1



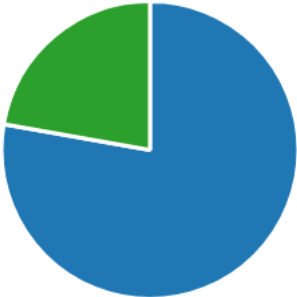
52. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

53. Is there appropriate co-operation between the internal and external Auditors?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	2



54. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses

55. Are internal Audit performance measures monitored by the Governance Committee?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1



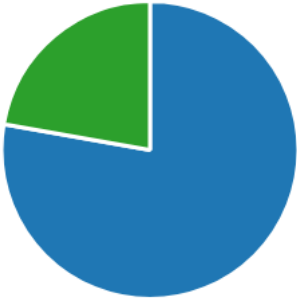
56. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

57. Has the Governance Committee considered the information it wishes to receive from internal audit?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	2



58. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

59. Do the external Auditors present and discuss their Governance plans and strategy with the Governance Committee (recognising the statutory duties of external Audit)?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



60. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

61. Does the Governance Committee review the external Auditor’s annual report to those charged with governance?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



62. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

63. Are reports on the work of external audit and other inspection agencies presented to the committee, including the annual audit and inspection letter?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	1

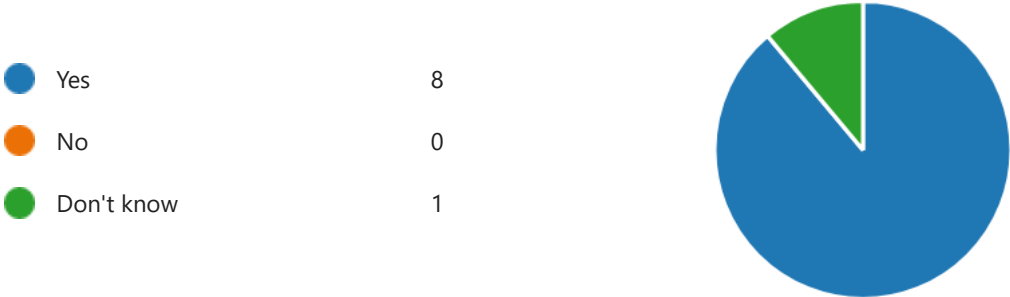


64. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

65. Does the Governance Committee assess the performance of External Audit?

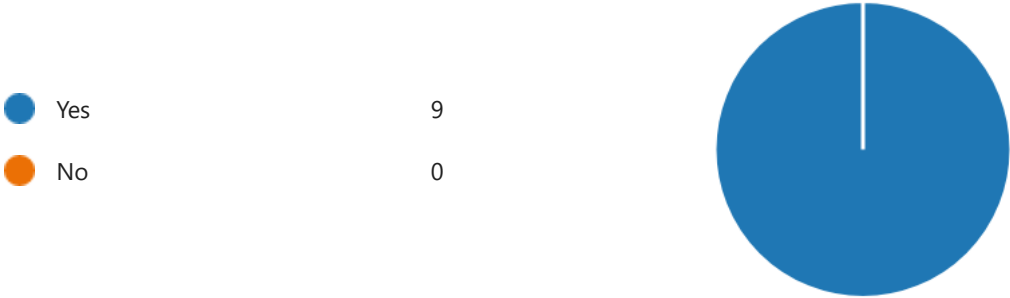


66. Additional comments / action

0
Responses

Latest Responses: None

67. Is there adequate secretariat and administrative support to the committee?



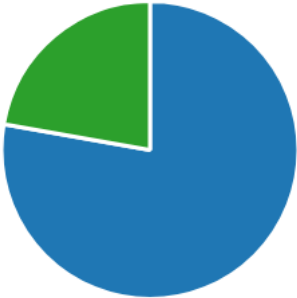
68. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

69. Does the Governance Committee plan one year ahead with a work programme to cover issues on a cyclical basis?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	2



70. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

71. Do reports to the Governance Committee communicate relevant information at the right frequency, time, and in a format that is effective?

● Yes	9
● No	0



72. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses: None

73. Are minutes prepared and circulated promptly to the appropriate people?

● Yes	9
● No	0
● Don't know	0



74. Additional comments / action

1
Responses

Latest Responses:
"Not enough attendance from dept heads, especially when time extensions for projects are tabled"

75. Does the Committee engage with a wide range of leaders and managers to discuss issues, audit findings, risks, and action plans with responsible officers?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Other	1



76. Does the Committee assess and discuss the culture of the organisation, including the tone from the top, to assess whether it has an open and inclusive culture?

● Yes	5
● No	3
● Other	1



77. Does the committee ask Officers what independent assurance is sought in areas of very high risk (i.e. external review, benchmarking etc)

● Yes	8
● No	1
● Other	0



78. Given the use of virtual and hybrid meetings, what are your thoughts on whether the technology used enables a good meeting to be undertaken?

Latest Responses

8 Responses

"Prefer face to face meetings" "Both adequate" "The use of remote meeting software has been very beneficial and I personally would like to see it extended in order for meetings to be held remotely" "Hybrid meetings are the way forward"
"Audio could be better" "With some more training yes" "Face to face allow far better debates and interaction between members" "Easy to understand and digest"

79. Are meetings effective with a good level of discussion and engagement from all the Members and Officers?

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Other	1



80. Please give details of any strategic or wide-ranging issues which the Governance Committee has considered in the past.

Latest Responses

5

*"Fraud" "Threats to IT systems" "Not sure"
"Encouraging projects to be completed more quickly"*

Responses

81. Please give details of any strategic or wide-ranging issues which the Governance Committee should consider.

Latest Responses

6

"Value of assets and loans taken out to purchase" "More interaction with HR and staffing matters" "None at this moment in time "

Responses

"Asking why problems have occurred and getting more detailed answers about what has been done resolve them" "More collaborative working with adjacent Councils to reduce duplication" "Organizational culture".

82. How do you think the Committee could tackle those problems? (*as per your answer to question 81)

Latest Responses

5

*"Have open discussion and data"
"Allow committee more interaction at meetings re staffing which is currently very rarely tabled" "With good consideration and fairness"*

Responses

"Review common areas of operation where potential exists to integrate"

83. How do you feel the Governance Committee has made a difference (to any issues)?

Latest Responses

6

Responses

*"Tackling potential fraud and cyber attacks"
"Some progress has been made in reducing requests for time...
"Ensuring that the council constitution, delivering of its strategies and managing risk and fraud etc"
"Provides a degree of scrutiny" "We have encouraged Officers to deal with changes to policies or the implementation of of them more quickly"*

84. Are there any areas in which you believe the Committee has failed to deliver?

Latest Responses

5
Responses

"Having an independent expert "
"Holding items from being presented at governance meetings"
"Not to my knowledge" "Not been assertive enough in asking questions"

85. How could this have been resolved or improved?

Latest Responses

4
Responses

"Look at getting a qualified person recruited" "Asked more questions and not have allowed as many extensions to do things"
"Allow members more input into steering agendas "
"As there are no major issues,there is no need for improvements"

86. How would you improve the Committee and its work?

Latest Responses

5
Responses

"It would allow discussion of pertinent matters which are concerning to members but not flagged by officers" "No need to change a well oiled machine" "Complete review of the committee structure, more involvement in evaluation of decisions made to ensure accountability and transparency" "By asking more questions" "Having another view from someone that might have had a background in audit would assist the committee in holding officers to account. For example, I was uncomfortable with the committee approving a single officer the power to purchase a house without recourse to agreement from any elected member. I find the case put forward to approve the recommendation neither convincing nor credible." "
