

Governance Survey 2023-2024

8 Responses

1. Please confirm your name:

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

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	0



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

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



4. Any additional comments regarding Section 1

3 Responses

Nothing to add
We have appointed an independent member with a financial background to the committee
I am sorry and must apologise but I have not attended many meetings.

5. 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?

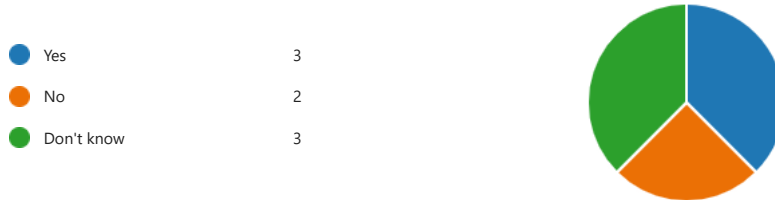
● Yes	6
● No	0
● Don't know	2



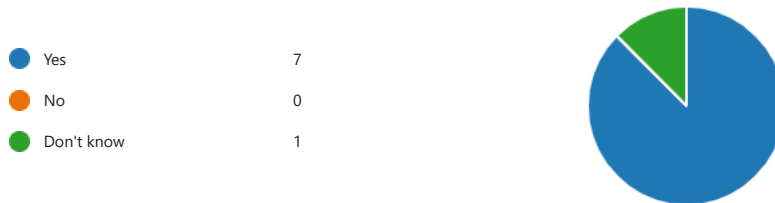
6. When you joined the Governance Committee were you provided with appropriate induction training?



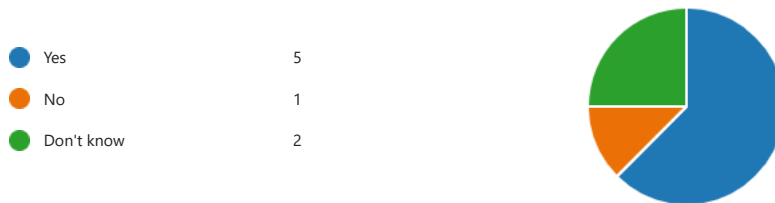
7. Have all Members' skills and experiences been assessed and training given for identified gaps?



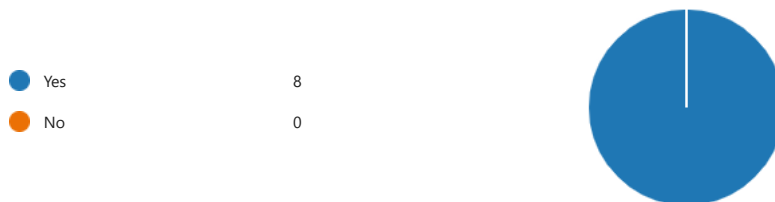
8. Are Members sufficiently independent of the Council's other key Committees?



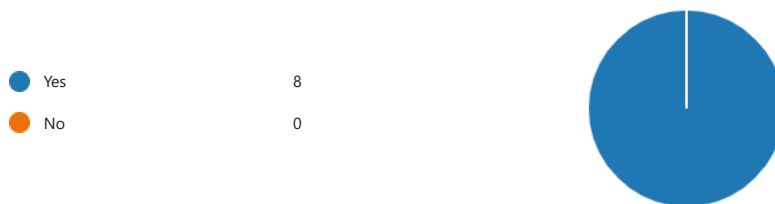
9. Are members attending meetings on a regular basis and, if not, is appropriate action taken?



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



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



12. Any additional comments regarding Section 2 - *Nothing to add*

3
Responses

- Question 11, I'm not sure who is our Section 151 or deputy are so I 'm unsure. I have put yes as a don't know option wasn't there.

- Q10 no evidence of any political influence displayed at the meetings.

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

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	0



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

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



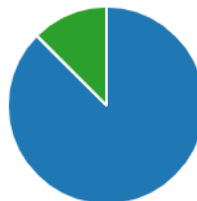
15. Has the Governance Committee considered how it integrates with other committees that may have responsibility for risk managements

● Yes	5
● No	1
● Don't know	2



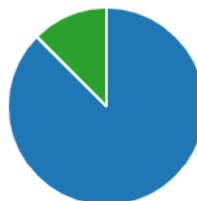
16. Does the Governance Committee ensure that the "Actions to Counter Fraud and Corruption" are being implemented?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



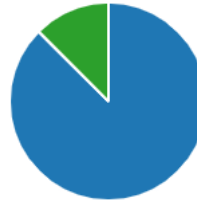
17. Is there consideration by the Governance Committee on whether the Internal Audit Plan is focused on areas of highest risk and concern to the council, and does it provide good coverage of all key areas?

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



20. Any additional comments regarding Section 3

2
Responses

Latest Responses

- *Nothing to add*
- Q15 further work on this perhaps.

21. 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?

Yes	6
No	1
Don't know	1



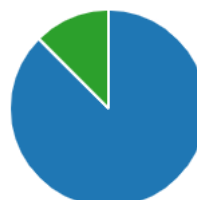
22. Does the Governance Committee have a mechanism to keep it aware of topical legal and regulatory issues, for example by receiving circulars and through training?

Yes	5
No	1
Don't know	2



23. 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	7
No	0
Don't know	1



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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



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

Yes	8
No	0
Don't know	0



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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



28. Any additional comments regarding Section 4

1
Responses

Latest Responses
"Nothing to add"

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

Yes	7
No	0
Don't know	1



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

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



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

● Yes	7
● No	0
● Don't know	1



32. Any additional comments regarding Section 5

Latest Response:

1
Responses

Q31 we assess their reports , would be interested to consider what other measures could be adopted

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

● Yes	7
● No	1



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

● Yes	7
● No	1



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

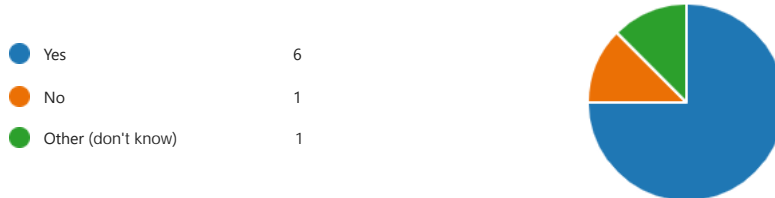
● Yes	8
● No	0
● Don't know	0



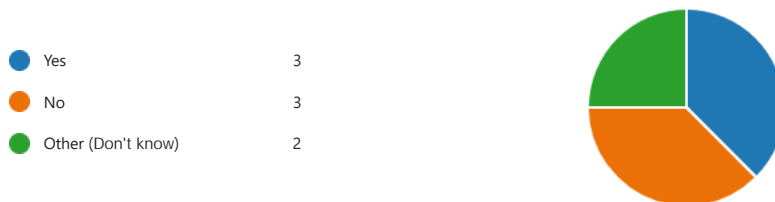
36. Any additional comments regarding Section 6

0
Responses

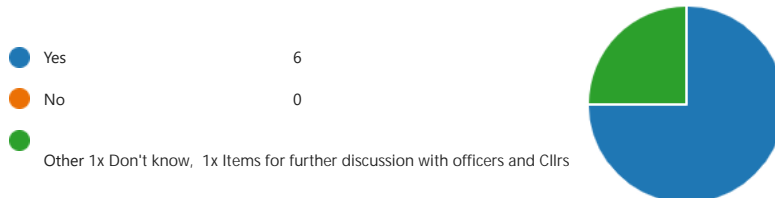
37. Does the Committee engage with a wide range of leaders and managers to discuss issues, audit findings, risks, and action plans with responsible officers?



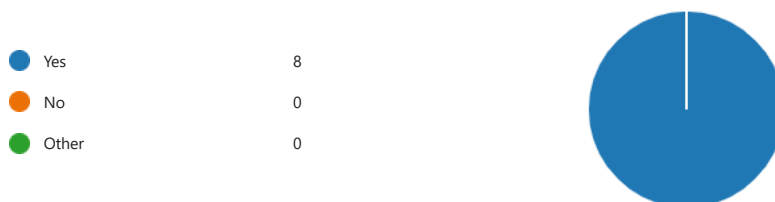
38. Does the Committee assess and discuss the culture of the organisation, including the tone from the top, to assess whether it has an open and inclusive culture?



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



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



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

4
Responses

Responses

- There was some discussion on the delays in completing IT threat supports in past meetings, these have been assessed and explained
- Agency staff
- Housing, business continuity, planning performance, staffing recruitment /agency costs
- Risk management ,planning processing times, co-option of independent member, lead member roles, agency spending

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

1 Response

The last Corporate Peer challenge was undertaken in 2019, the maximum recommended period between reviews is 5 years.

43. How do you think the Committee could tackle those problems? (*as per your answer to question 42)

2 *Taking the advice of officers and applying appropriate action*

Responses

As a minimum element of a CPC to review our governance arrangements and council structure along with the lead Cllrs roles .

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

- *Nothing particular comes to mind*

4

- Raised question of members' undergoing all training required prior to serving on committees

Responses

- The majority of the members are new Cllrs, we have completed a full cycle now and we are seeing increased number of questions and challenge. We have seen improvements in a number of areas. New independent member appointed, reduction of risks on the corporate risk register , long term recommendation on audits completed, following concerns raised we have seem an increase in Cllrs training completed etc

- I feel it gives a fair oversight

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

3

All 'No'

Responses

46. How could this have been resolved or improved? 0 Responses

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

3

Responses

Meetings are often extremely long - three hours - so the chair might wish to focus discussions in a more streamlined way without stifling debate

Steer Cllrs to consider strategic matters rather than operational items in the debate.

I feel I am still getting to grips of all the processes and now look forward to voicing my thoughts more in meetings
