

## **Milton Keynes Councils Local Code of Corporate Governance**

Milton Keynes Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance has been written with regard to and in compliance with the CIPFA/SOLACE best practice framework, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government."

This Local Code of Corporate Governance is a statement of the standards of governance that Milton Keynes Council will adhere to and the framework against which Milton Keynes Council will monitor its compliance

Milton Keynes Council has adopted the 6 core principles and the supporting principles of good governance from the CIPFA/SOLACE best practice framework. Within this framework Milton Keynes Council has developed specific requirements (based on the requirements for inclusion in the CIPFA/SOLACE framework) that the council will evidence to ensure that the 6 core principles of Corporate Governance are being observed.

### **Milton Keynes Council's Good governance framework**

#### **1. Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and on creating and implementing a vision for the local area.**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

- Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision and its intended outcome for citizens and service users
- Ensuring that users receive a high quality of service, whether directly, or in partnership, or by commissioning
- Ensuring that the authority makes best use of resources and that tax payers and service users receive excellent value for money

#### **2. Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and goals**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

- Ensuring effective leadership throughout the authority and being clear about executive and non-executive functions and of the roles and responsibilities of the scrutiny function
- Ensuring that a constructive working relationship exists between authority members and officers and that the responsibilities of the members and officers are carried out to a high standard

- Ensuring that relationships between the authority, its partners and the public are clear so that each knows what to expect of the other

### **3. Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

- Ensuring authority members and officers exercise leadership by behaving in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct and effective governance
- Ensuring that organisational values are put into practice and are effective

### **4. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

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

### **5. Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

- Making sure that members and officers have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources they need to perform well in their roles
- developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance as individuals and as a group encouraging new talent for membership of the authority so that best use can be made of individuals' skills and resources in balancing continuity and renewal

### **6. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability**

Milton Keynes Council will demonstrate its adherence to this principle through;

- Exercising leadership through a robust scrutiny function which effectively engages local people and all local institutional

stakeholders, including partnerships, and develops constructive accountability relationships.

- taking an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public to ensure effective and appropriate service delivery whether directly by the authority, in partnership or by commissioning
- Making best use of human resources by taking an active and planned approach to meet responsibility to staff.

The specific requirements which will allow Milton Keynes Council to review its adherence to the 6 principles of good governance are at annex one.

### **Review and monitoring**

In order to ensure that the council is meeting the standards of good governance, it will carry out an annual review of its performance against the framework.

In order to review Milton Keynes Council's current governance arrangements, the council will:

- Consider the extent to which the authority complies with the principles and requirements of good governance set out in the Framework.
- Identify systems, processes and documentation that provide evidence of compliance.
- Identify the individuals and committees responsible for monitoring and reviewing the systems, processes and documentation identified.
- Identify the issues that have not been addressed adequately in the authority and consider how they should be addressed.
- Identify the individuals who would be responsible for undertaking the actions required and plan accordingly.

It will report any issues identified as a result of the review, and the action plan, to the Audit Committee.

The Council will also produce an Annual Governance Statement, in line with the best practice guidance which will publicly evidence our compliance with our local code.