Demonstrating Good Governance Resources Improvement and Scrutiny Committee

Presented by:

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What is Governance

- A robust framework underpinning the Council's decision-making and service delivery functions
- Comprises of our Constitution, Policies, Codes of Conduct, legislation, and various guidance (statutory and non-statutory)
- Role of key statutory Officers

BUT…

- How can we measure the robustness of our framework?
- How can we demonstrate continuous improvement to give confidence to our staff, residents and stakeholders?

Constitution

- Recently revised and rolled out across the Council

- Remains under constant review by the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee with the support of the Monitoring Officer

- Is our primary governance framework document but we still need other governance tools to support the strategic and operational delivery of our Constitution

Code of Corporate Governance

- Based on a set of agreed principles promoted by CIPFA and Solace

- Forms the basis/template of the Council's Annual Governance Statement

- Should be used to develop a Local Code of Corporate Governance ie. be personal to our Council

- Essentially contributes to a more sophisticated level of assurance monitoring

What is the Annual Governance Statement

- Key mandatory document published to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with our governance arrangements and is written based on the Code of Corporate Governance Framework ie the 7 Principles.

- It details our governance arrangements, our controls, our management of risks of failure and our assessment of known and or future governance risks.

- Identifies areas of good practice and those for improvement.

- Is published with the annual Statement of Accounts and is considered by the Audit Committee and External Audit

What are the 7 Principles?

- A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

- B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

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

- D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes

7 Principles

- E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

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

- G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting to audit, to deliver effective accountability

How do these Principles work in practice?

- Principles A and B are interdependent of each other

- Both Principles A and B feature in the delivery of Principles C to G

- All of the Principles can be broken down into a number of behaviours and actions which can be used as a toolkit for measuring our Governance arrangements

Illustrative image taken from the Internal Framework of Good Governance in the Public Sector 2014 (CIPFA/IFAC)
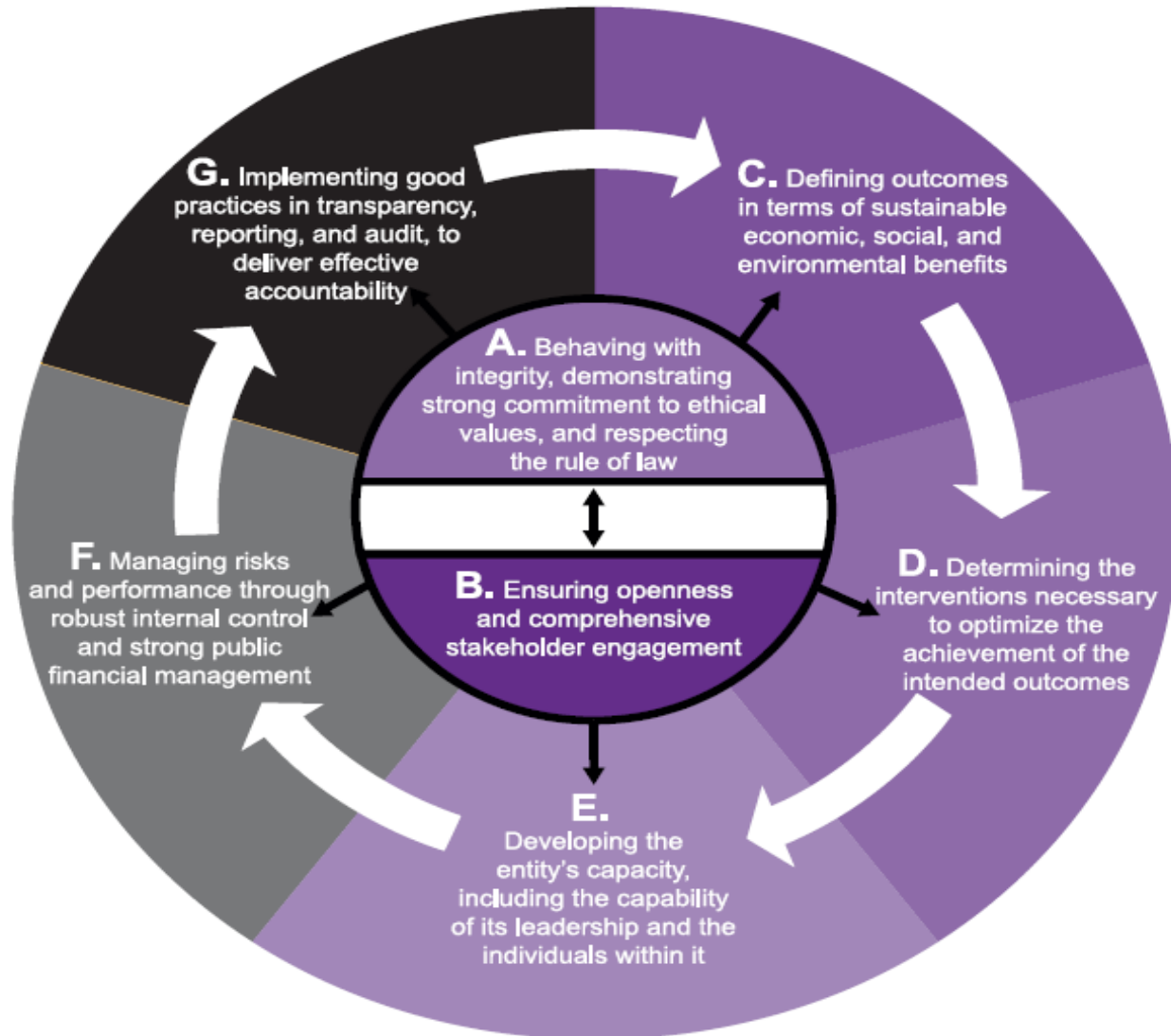
Development of a Governance Group

- Is best practice for the Council to have a proactive Governance Group
- Representatives from across the 4 Departments
- Key role for the Monitoring Officer, s151 Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (Internal Audit)
- Use the Code of Corporate Governance to develop a localised Code and thus support the findings and recommendations contained in the Annual Governance Statement
- Supports the functions of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee and the Audit Committee in fulfilling their constitutional functions
- Promotes robust governance processes across all functions of the Council

- Any questions?

- For more information, please contact:
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