

Core Principle G:

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

Supporting Principle	Behaviours and actions that demonstrate good governance in practice	Evidence of compliance	Status of compliance	Progress on 2022/23 Actions	2023/24 Actions
Implementing good practice in 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Service Review • Annual Service Plan • Core Strategies – Prevention, Protection, Response • Annual Assurance Statement • Council Tax Information leaflet / webpage • Community Risk Management Plan • Consultation documents • Agendas, minutes and decisions published, including the rationale and considerations on which decisions are based • Head of Legal and Committee Services to advise on Authority and Committee reports 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Right to Know section of the website • Compliance with the Government's Transparency Code via Transparency webpage • Publication Scheme 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	

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	too onerous to provide and for users to understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Information • Social media 			
Implementing good practices in reporting	Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Service Review • Annual Service Plan • Annual Assurance Statement • Council Tax Information webpage 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Ensuring members and senior management own the results reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Service Review • Annual Service Plan • Annual Assurance Statement • Annual Performance report • HMICFRS Improvement Plan 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit and External Audit of the Annual Governance Statement and assurances 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	

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	Ensuring that this Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Services is run by steering group comprising the relevant local authorities who abide by the Framework 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of Accounts prepared prior to deadline Audit of Accounts Statement of Assurance presented at the same time as the Statement of Accounts Family Group 4 Benchmarking Report 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
Assurance and effective accountability	Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit & Standards Committee considers external audit reports and adequacy of management response to recommendations 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service Internal Auditor reports to Audit & Standards Committee and attends meetings 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	

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	Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Assurance • HMICFRS Inspections and Improvement Plan 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Registers include risks associated with failure of suppliers • Standard contract terms include requirements for suppliers to have business continuity arrangements in place 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	
	Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Fire Alliance Board terms of reference • Local Strategic Partnerships • Worcestershire Partnership Executive Group Terms of Reference • Shenstone Group Objectives • JESIP Framework • 	→	There were no actions identified for 2022/23	