

Six Core Principles of Good Governance

Good governance means focusing on the organisation's purposes and on outcomes for citizens and service users

- Being clear about the organisation's purposes and its intended outcomes for citizens and service users;
- Making sure that users receive a high quality service;
- Making sure that taxpayers receive value for money.

Good governance means performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles

- Being clear about the functions of the governing body;
- Being clear about the responsibilities of the non-executives and the executive, and making sure that those responsibilities are carried out;
- Being clear about relationships between the governors and the public.

Good governance means promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour

- Putting organisational values into practice;
- Individual governors behaving in ways that uphold and exemplify effective governance.

Good Governance means taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk

- Being rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken;
- Having and using good quality information, advice and support;
- Making sure that an effective risk management systems is in operation.
- Good governance mean developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective
- Making sure that appointed and elected governors have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well;
- Developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance, as individuals and as a group;
- Striking a balance, in the membership of the governing body, between continuity and renewal.

Good governance means engaging stakeholders and making accountability real

- Understanding formal and informal accountability relationships;
- Taking an active and planned approach to dialogue with accountability to the public;
- Taking an active and planned approach to responsibility to staff;
- Engaging effectively with institutional stakeholders.

From the Good Governance Standard for Public Services published by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services, January 2005.