



Studley Parish Council	
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY	
Status	Adopted
Date adopted	July 2022
Date of next review	July 2023

Introduction

Studley Parish Council is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this accountability, councillors and senior officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal. To this end, the Council has adopted this Corporate Governance policy.

Studley Parish Council seeks to ensure that the following principles underpin the operation of the council in working for the people of Studley:

- openness and inclusivity
- accountability
- integrity.

In addition, Studley Parish Council seeks to aspire to the standards and expectations set out below when carrying out all actions and business decisions.

Community Focus

Studley Parish Council in the exercise of its powers and duties will always seek to:

- work for and with its diverse local community;
- exercise leadership;
- promote the wellbeing of the area, wherever possible.

Studley Parish Council maintains effective arrangements:

- for explicit accountability to parish residents for its performance and its effectiveness in the delivery of services and the sustainable use of resources.
- for demonstrating integrity when building effective relationships and partnerships with other public agencies and the private / voluntary sectors underpinned by ensuring openness and transparency at all times.
- for ensuring inclusivity by communicating and engaging with all sections of the parish community to encourage active participation.

Service Delivery Arrangements

Studley Parish Council strives to achieve continuous improvement in all its services. It will ensure agreed policies are implemented and decisions carried out by maintaining arrangements which:

- support accountability for service delivery at a local level;
- demonstrate integrity in dealing with service users and developing partnerships to ensure the appropriate provision of services locally;
- demonstrate openness and inclusivity through consulting with key stakeholders, including service users;
- are flexible and adapt to accommodate change and meet user wishes.

Structures and Processes

Studley Parish Council maintains effective democratic and managerial structures and processes to support good decision-making and will continue to:

- define the roles and responsibilities of councillors and officers to ensure accountability and clarity of the Council's business;
- ensure there is proper scrutiny and review of all aspects of performance and effectiveness.

Risk Management and Internal Control

Studley Parish Council maintains a systematic strategy for managing risk that is based on processes for identifying, controlling and monitoring significant risks to the delivery of its objectives.

Standards of Conduct and Behaviour

Studley Parish Council believes openness, integrity and accountability of individuals within the council form the cornerstone of effective corporate governance and that its reputation depends on the standards of behaviour of everyone in it, whether members, employees or agents contracted to it. Everyone working within the parish council, either voluntarily or paid, is required to comply with the seven ([Nolan](#)) principles of public life contained in the council's Code of Conduct.

This Code of Corporate Governance is consistent with the principles and requirements of Proper Practice, as outlined in the Practitioners' Guide from the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG).