



GOVERNANCE POLICY

POLICY TYPE	DOCUMENT CONTROLLER	RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	POLICY ADOPTED	REVIEW DUE
Council	Executive Coordinator	General Manager	TBC	TBC
PURPOSE	This policy sets out the governance standards expected at the Devonport City Council.			
SCOPE	The Policy outlines governance standards applicable to Council as a collective and as such applies to all Elected Members and staff of the organisation.			
POLICY	<p>The Devonport City Council is committed to good governance practices and recognises the following eight major characteristics of good governance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Good governance is accountable Accountability is a fundamental requirement of good governance. Council has an obligation to report, to explain and to be answerable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community it represents and serves.2. Good governance is transparent People should be able to follow and understand the decision making process. This means that they are able to clearly see how and why a decision was made – what information, advice and consultation council considered, and which legislative requirements (when relevant) were followed. Council is committed to considering business in open session whenever possible.3. Good governance is law-abiding Decisions must be consistent with relevant legislation or common law, and be within the powers of local government.4. Good governance is responsive Council always try to represent and serve the needs of the entire community while balancing competing interests in a timely, appropriate and responsive manner.5. Good governance is equitable A community's wellbeing depends on all of its members feeling that their interests have been considered by their council in the decision making process. All members of the community should have opportunities to participate in the decision making process.6. Good governance is participatory and inclusive Anyone affected by, or interested in, a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision. Participation can happen in several ways – community members			

	<p>may be provided with information, asked for their opinion, given the opportunity to make recommendations or, in some cases, be part of the actual decision-making process. Any community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.</p> <p>7. Good governance is effective and efficient Council will implement decisions and follow processes that make the best use of the available resources and time, to ensure the best possible results for the community.</p> <p>8. Good governance is consensus oriented Wherever possible, good governance involves taking into account the different views and interests to reach a majority position on what is in the best interests of the whole community, and how it can be achieved.</p> <p>Council recognises the 'Good Governance Guide for Local Government in Tasmania' produced by the Local Government Division and is committed to complying with the guidelines outlined in this document.</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities Elected representatives in partnership with the Executive Leadership Team play a key role in leading the direction of Council through the demonstration of ethical behaviour and positive reinforcement of accountability and transparency through adherence to Council policies and procedures. They are responsible for promoting good governance practices and embedding good governance in the organisation's culture.</p> <p>All employees are responsible for and supported in seeking to embed good governance practices while carrying out their roles and functions.</p>	
LEGISLATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS	<p>Local Government Act 1993 Staff Code of Conduct Model Code of Conduct Policy Community Engagement Policy Good Governance Guide for Local Government in Tasmania</p>	
ATTACHMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)	<p>Good Governance Guide for Local Government in Tasmania</p>	
STRATEGIC REFERENCE	<p>5.3.1 Review and amend structures, policies and procedures to adapt to changing circumstances</p> <p>5.3.2 Provide appropriate support to elected members to enable them to discharge their functions</p>	
MINUTE REFERENCE	<p>TBC</p>	
OFFICE USE ONLY	Update Register	Training/Communication
	Advise Document Controller	Advise HR / MCO
	<p>Management Sign Off: Date:</p>	