

# Improving and assuring good governance

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## Why are we here today?

- ***What keeps your council safe?*** - learning from mapping the local government assurance framework
- Support we can offer
- Questions you can ask as a member peer

## What do we mean by ‘assurance’?

Information, evidence and evaluation of how local authorities are delivering their duties, functions and outcomes, which can be used to hold them to account and may give confidence.

*There should be no assumption that assurance will always be gained – in some cases the outcome will be ‘not assured’.*

# What have we been doing?





**So what have we learned so far?**

# Principles of assurance and accountability

- Leadership
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Culture
- Standards/ benchmarks/ local targets
- Transparency/ accessibility/ intelligibility of information



## What does 'good' look like?

- Visible/ collective ownership and leadership of good governance at senior political and managerial levels
- A learning organisation: self-awareness, open to challenge
- Assurance as a constant management process, not a one-off event
- Assurance activity increases as risk increases
- Assurance supports achievement of priority outcomes
- Good communication with the public on performance and how they can contribute to holding the council to account
- Regional/ sub-regional/ national oversight, challenge and support

## What should members do?

- ‘Those charged with governance’
- Review Annual Governance Statement
- Audit / Overview and Scrutiny/ Standards Committees  
good practice
- Appointments Committee
- Transparency
- Understand wider context





## What support can we offer?

- Peer challenge – especially CPC, finance, governance
- Mentoring
- Top team work
- Leadership Academy/ Essentials
- LG Inform
- Bespoke support

*The regional team will advise!*



## What to look out for as a member peer?

## Questions

1. What should member peers be curious about when on a peer challenge/ while mentoring?
2. What support would be useful for member peers to help ask the right questions?



# Any other questions or comments?

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