



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY

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Information

Corporate governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems, and processes within and by which an organisation is directed, controlled, and held to account. For Ramsey Town Commissioners, strong corporate governance is essential to ensuring that public resources are used effectively, decisions are made transparently, and the organisation operates with integrity and accountability.

The purpose of this Corporate Governance Policy is to formalise the principles and practices that guide the governance of Ramsey Town Commissioners. It promotes high standards of leadership, ethical behaviour, and sound decision-making, all of which underpin public trust and confidence in local government.

Good governance enables the Commissioners to:

- Deliver services that meet the needs of the community;
- Ensure public funds are managed responsibly and transparently;
- Comply with legal and regulatory obligations;
- Make informed and balanced decisions in the public interest;
- Foster a culture of accountability, openness, and continuous improvement.

By embedding these principles into all aspects of its operations, Ramsey Town Commissioners aim to demonstrate exemplary public stewardship and uphold the values expected of a local authority serving the Isle of Man.

In respect of the standards demonstrated by Members and Staff in executing this governance, The Nolan Principles of Public Life set out expectations clearly.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Policy

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the corporate governance framework for Ramsey Town Commissioners (RTC), ensuring adherence to the overarching principles as set out in the Isle of Man Government's Corporate Governance Principles and Code of Conduct. It aims to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in all operations.

2. Governance Structure

- **Board Composition:** The Board comprises a Chairman and 11 Commissioners, meeting monthly to oversee strategic, policy, financial, and operational matters.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - **Board:** Sets strategic direction, approves policies, and ensures effective governance.
 - **Responsible Financial Officer (RFO):** Implements and maintains systems of internal control and corporate governance, ensuring compliance with legislation and safeguarding public funds.
 - **Town Clerk:** Exercises oversight and compiles annual report.

3. Core Principles

- **Openness:** Decisions and actions are conducted transparently, with information made accessible to the public, respecting confidentiality where necessary. Wherever possible, the principles of decision modelling should be utilised and recorded in writing.
- **Integrity:** Commissioners and staff act with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards and have due cognisance of the Nolan Principles
- **Accountability:** Clear lines of responsibility are established, with mechanisms to hold individuals and the organisation accountable for their actions.

4. Areas of review for Corporate Governance:

The following five areas are set out as the aspects of function of the commission. The scope of these areas can be found in the Local Government Handbook noted earlier.

- a. **Community Focus.**
- b. **Performance Management**
- c. **Structures and Processes**
- d. **Risk Management and Internal Control**
 - **Risk Assessment:** Regular identification and evaluation of risks will be made to manage them effectively.
 - **Internal Controls:** Systems will be put in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, financial integrity, and the efficient use of resources.
 - **Review and Assurance:** The effectiveness of internal controls will be assessed continuously, with oversight from both internal and external auditors.
- e. **Standards of Conduct**
 - **Code of Conduct:** Commissioners and staff adhere to a code that emphasises ethical behaviour, respect, and professionalism.
 - **Conflict of Interest:** Procedures are established to identify, disclose, and manage potential conflicts of interest as prescribed by the Local Government Act.

5. Performance and Accountability

- **Annual Governance Statement:** An annual statement will be prepared for the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, reflecting the Commissioners' commitment to good governance and accountability.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Policies and procedures will be regularly reviewed and updated to enhance governance practices.

6. Policy Review

This Corporate Governance Policy is reviewed Annually to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with best practices and legislative requirements.