

4. INTERNAL CONTROL		
How well does the council's internal control environment enable it to manage its significant business risks?		
Key line of enquiry		
4.2 The council has arrangements in place to maintain a sound system of internal control		
Audit Focus		
Evidence that:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the council reviews and reports on its system of internal control</li> <li>the council has an audit committee or equivalent and an internal audit function</li> </ul>		
Criteria for Judgement		
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p><b>* An appropriate member group has responsibility for review and approval of the governance statement, and considers it separately from the accounts.</b></p> <p><b>* The council has conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control, and reported on this in the governance statement.</b></p> <p><b>* The sources of assurance to support the governance statement have been identified and are reviewed by senior officers and members.</b></p> <p><b>* There are action plans in place to address any significant governance issues reported in the governance statement.</b></p>	<p><b>* The council has put in place an assurance framework that maps the council's strategic objectives to risks, controls and assurances.</b></p> <p><b>* The assurance framework provides members with information to support the governance statement.</b></p>	<p>The assurance framework is fully embedded in the council's business processes.</p> <p>The council can demonstrate corporate involvement in/ownership of the process for preparing the governance statement.</p> <p>Governance arrangements with respect to partnerships are subject to regular review and updating.</p> <p>The council obtains assurance on a risk basis of the viability of its significant contractors' / partners business continuity plans.</p>