# Good Governance

Good Governance is all about how well your organisation is run and the structures and systems which are in place to ensure the organisation runs efficiently and effectively. A well run organisation will have the resilience and organisational strength to withstand the pressures of operating in challenging times and ensure the purposes for which the organisation can continue to be achieved.

At the head of the organisation should be a Management Committee or Board of Trustees whose role is to set the long term vision and protect the reputation and values of their organisation. The Committee is also responsible for ensuring the organisation has proper procedures and policies in place and setting and reviewing appropriate business and finance plans.

The depth and detail to which a Board/Committee should go depends on the type and size of the organisation. For a small community group it is enough to:

* make sure everyone understands the aims of the organisation ,
* put a simple 2 or 3 year plan in place and review it regularly,
* ensure the appropriate policies and procedures are in place and are reviewed regularly
* ensure that sufficient monitoring of the organisation’s progress is carried out.

For larger organisations and registered charities, the Board have wider responsibility and must be aware of their accountability to the beneficiaries and members of the organisation and to the Charity Commission. See the Charity Commission’s guidance - The Essential Trustee [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3)

The NCVO publication Good Governance- A Code of Practice for Voluntary and Community Organisations sets out six principles of good governance stating that an effective board will provide good governance and leadership by:

1. understanding their role

2. ensuring delivery of organisational purpose

3. working effectively both as individuals and a team

4. exercising effective control

5. behaving with integrity

6. being open and accountable.