MOBIUS IT GOVERNANCE ARTEFACT FRAMEWORK

IT Governance is a leadership discipline that is a subset of Corporate Governance. IT Governance exists to inform, align and monitor decision making for information technology planning, policy and operations. Hence the focus of IT Governance is not about the control over the IT functions, but rather the responsible and optimal use of IT to ensure that IT delivers value to the business and IT risks are mitigated. A consistent, well-defined approach to governance guides shareholders and other stakeholders in decision making to ensure organisations accomplish their desired business outcomes and IT continues to deliver value. Hence the primary objectives of IT Governance are to ensure the following:

• IT decisions are meeting business objectives;
• IT delivers value to the business;
• IT risks are managed and mitigated; and
• IT resources are used responsibly.

An IT Governance artefact is a document or template that has a specific purpose to govern, support and/or guide good governance practices within IT (King III, COBIT, ITIL, ISO38500). Within this context, IT Governance artefacts consist of the IT Strategy, Frameworks, Policies, Standards, Processes, Procedures and Guidelines (depicted in Figure 1) to help ensure that good governance is in place across the IT functions.
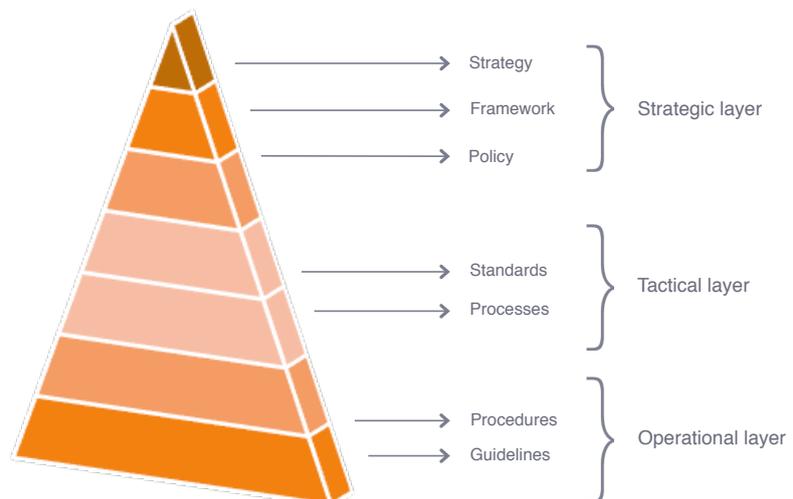

Figure 1: IT governance artefact framework

Strategy	An Information Technology Strategy is the overall plan, which consists of the vision, objective(s), principles and tactics relating to use of information technology within an organisation. Such a strategy should be aligned to the overall corporate strategy.
Framework	Frameworks provide a conceptual structure around the definition and development of various artefacts. There are two key frameworks within IT Governance: *An IT Governance Famework* – this is the overaching document providing the directive, structure and authority by which IT is governed. *An IT Policy Framework* - this provides the structure of all IT policies and outlines the decision rights regarding the development and approval of policies.
Policy	IT policies are a fundamental component to help ensure that good governance is in place across your organisation. A policy is a high-level statement of intent, which sets the tone at the top. Policies comprise of principles or rules to guide decisions and encourage desirable behaviour in the use of IT across your organisation.
Standard	IT Standards define mandatory actions and/or explicit rules that are designed to support and conform to policies, making these policies more meaningful and effective. In addition, standards provide the minimum level of acceptable requirements that must be attained through execution of processes fostering consistency within organisations.
Process	A process is a structured set of activities designed to accomplish a specific objective. A Process takes one or more defined inputs and turns them into defined outputs. It may include any of the roles, responsibilities, tools and management controls required to reliably deliver the outputs. A Process may define Policies, Standards, Guidelines, Activities, and Work Instructions if they are needed.
Procedure	IT Procedures documents containing specific steps that describe how an activity should be carried out and by whom. Procedures reduce the training time needed to train new employees, ensure business continuity, consistency and standardisation across the organisation ultimately reducing costs and increasing productivity.
Guidelines	IT Guidelines contain detailed set of principles to support an existing standard, process or policy. It typically describes best practice, which recommends what should be done. The key difference between a guideline and all other governance artefacts is that compliance with a guideline is not enforceable.

Mobius Consulting has a wealth of knowledge and experience in IT Governance, from a well-experienced and innovative team of consultants to IT Governance industry experts. This team can assist your organisation in developing the IT Governance Artefacts that are needed to run an effective and efficient IT function that is aligned to your organisational goals.