

# **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 15 March 2023**

## **Oxfordshire Code of Corporate Governance**

### **Report by Monitoring Officer**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the Oxfordshire Code of Corporate Governance.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. In 2016 CIPFA & SOLACE produced an updated guidance and framework with the identified principles that should underpin the governance of each local authority, and a structured approach to assist individual authorities to achieve good governance, “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 Edition.” The Council’s Code of Corporate Governance is based upon this guidance.
3. The Framework urges local authorities to test their structures against seven core principles by:
  - Reviewing their existing governance arrangements against the Framework
  - Developing and maintaining an up-to-date local code of governance including arrangements for ensuring its ongoing application and effectiveness
  - Preparing an Annual Governance Statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which they comply with their own code, including how they have monitored the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes for the coming period.
4. The Officer Corporate Governance Assurance Group has reviewed and updated Oxfordshire County Council’s Code of Corporate Governance, which is subject to an annual review; the next review date is March 2024.

#### **Format of the Oxfordshire Code of Corporate Governance**

5. The Code of Corporate Governance sets out how Oxfordshire County Council complies with the requirements of the Code and identifies key documents, which provide detailed information as to how the Council ensures the Corporate Governance principles are adhered to.
6. Appendix A details the actions and behaviours taken by the Council that demonstrate good governance; as taken from 2016 CIPFA & SOLACE: “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 Edition”
7. Appendix B identifies evidence that demonstrates that the Council is delivering good governance

## **Conclusion**

8. This Code of Corporate Governance has been drafted with the oversight of the Corporate Governance Assurance Group (CGAG) and with input from Extended Leadership Team representatives. The Senior Leadership Team have also had opportunity to review the Code ahead of Committee being invited to comment on the draft.
9. The Committee is invited to approve the Code of Corporate Governance.

## **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications.

## **Legal Implications**

11. There is no statutory requirement for a Code of Corporate Governance. The Code complements and underpins the Annual Governance Statement by demonstrating, with evidence, how the Council meets the good governance principles set out in the Good Governance Framework published in 2016 by the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy.

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