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| Council name | COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| Name and date of Committee | AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2025 |
| Subject | LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE |
| Wards affected | All |
| Accountable member | Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk |
| Accountable officer | Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk |
| Report author | Cheryl Sloan, Business Services Manager, Governance, Risk & Business Continuity Email: Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk |
| Summary/Purpose | To present the latest version of the Local Code of Corporate Governance for Cotswold District Council for adoption. |
| Annexes | Annex A – Local Code of Corporate Governance |
| Recommendation(s) | That the Committee Review and adopt the latest version of the Local Code of Corporate Governance. |
| Corporate priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All |
| Key Decision | NO |
| Exempt | NO |
| Consultees/ Consultation | NA |



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** To present to the Audit and Governance Committee the annually reviewed Local Code of Corporate Governance for adoption by the Committee and Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Local Code of Corporate governance is a document which sets out the framework within which Cotswold District Council (CDC) will conduct its business and affairs. It is best practice for all Local Authorities to develop a Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- 2.2** The Local Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed annually and presented to the Audit and Governance Committee for adoption.
- 2.3** The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets the overarching principles, which underpin the governance framework for the Council. On an annual basis, the Council will produce a Governance Statement and Action Plan which details how it has delivered against the Code of Corporate Governance and its priorities are for the following financial year to ensure ongoing compliance and continuous improvement. The Annual Governance Statement and Action plan are presented to the Audit and Governance Committee with progress against the Annual Governance Action presented on a quarterly basis.

3. OVERVIEW

- 3.1** Corporate governance is about the systems, processes, and values by which Councils operate and by which they engage with, and are held accountable to, their communities and stakeholders.
- 3.2** Cotswold District Council is committed to the principles of effective corporate governance and has therefore adopted a Code of Corporate Governance which follows the latest guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)".



3.3 The guidance defines the seven core principles, each supported by sub-principles that should underpin the governance framework of a local authority.

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rules of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

3.4 Cotswold District Council has a good governance framework in place. The documents and arrangements which comprise the framework demonstrate that the Council continually seeks to ensure it is and remains, well governed, through integration of the core principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework into all aspects of the Council's conduct and operation.

3.5 The Local Code of Corporate Governance has been reviewed and there are no proposed changes.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee review the Local Code of Corporate Governance and continue to adopt the code.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 If the Council's governance arrangements are weak then the Council is at risk of failing to safeguard the use of public funds. In turn this would lead to poor external assessments, damaging the reputation of the Council.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no climate or ecological emergency implications arising directly from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- The Annual Governance Statement 24/25
- The Annual Governance Action Plan 24/25

10.2 These documents will be available for inspection online at www.cotswold.gov.uk or by contacting democratic services democratic@cotswold.gov.uk for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting.