

# Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Report

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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AGENDA ITEM NO 12

## Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement year-end 07/08

### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the end of year outcome on the Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement which gives the committee assurances that the council aims for high standards of governance.

### Strategic Objectives

2. The Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement embraces all South Oxfordshire District Council's strategic objectives. It is about doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It provides the basis from which the council can fulfil its role as a community leader in South Oxfordshire.

### Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement

3. The council adopted its Corporate Governance Local Code in 2003 which is based on CIPFA/SOLACE's 2001 framework document<sup>1</sup>.
4. The Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement is a document from which the Committee can seek assurances that principal statutory obligations are identified; that corporate objectives have been established and performance

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<sup>1</sup> The committee approved a new Local Code of Governance in March 2008 which is the document against which governance will be monitored from April 2008.

management arrangements are in place to monitor those objectives; that risks are identified and managed and key controls are in place to manage those risks.

5. The attached document enables the committee to consider the council's performance against its governance objectives. The document draws on measures in the performance management system on Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs) and Local Performance Targets (LPTs) for 2007/08.
6. This document supports the Annual Governance Statement which is also included on the agenda for the committee to consider.

### **Financial Implications**

7. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

8. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **Conclusion**

9. The committee is asked to note the Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement and seek assurance where it feels necessary.

### **Background papers:**

- Corporate Governance Local Code
- Good Governance in Local Government: A Framework (consultation draft June 2006)