

Full Council

Report Title:	Oxfordshire Code of Conduct
Meeting Date:	2 August 2022
Contact Officer:	Mandy Sturdy, Town Clerk Lizzie Fuller, Committee Services Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background on the possible adoption of the new Oxfordshire Code of Conduct.

Background

2. Thame Town Council currently has a Code of Conduct (Appendix A) (as published by the National Association of Local Councils) which is reviewed every 4 years at the Annual Meeting.
3. The Oxfordshire Secretaries and Monitoring Officers Group (OSMOG) have recently agreed a model Code of Conduct (Appendix B) to be applied on a countywide basis and which is intended to provide consistency across all tiers of local government.
4. The Code of Conduct has been adapted from the one proposed by the Local Government Association (LGA) which was subject to a public consultation in 2020.
5. The Code of Conduct was adopted by South Oxfordshire and VOWH District Councils in May 2022. The Monitoring Officers are asking that all Town and Parish Councils now also adopt this Code of Conduct at their earliest opportunity so that all Oxfordshire councillors are covered by the same Code.

Next Steps

6. SODC are offering free online training sessions for Officers (August) and Councillors (September) on the new countywide Code of Conduct. Councillors are **strongly encouraged** to attend one of the training sessions, either Thursday 15th September or Wednesday 28th September, both 7pm. Please contact the Committee Services Officer to book a place.
7. Once the training sessions have been attended and Officers are satisfied with the new Code, it will be brought to a suitable Full Council meeting for adoption.

Resource Appraisal

8. There are no additional resource requirements identified.

Risk Assessment

9. The document is a legal requirement for the Governance of a Town Council.

Legal Powers:

- Localism Act 2011

Recommendation

It is recommended...

- i) That Councillors attend one of the online training sessions on 15 September or 28 September.***
- ii) That the report and the intention to adopt the new countywide Code of Conduct be noted.***