<u>Consultation on the draft Oxfordshire Councils Charter</u>

What is your role?

- Councillor
- Clerk

Which form(s) of local authority are you a member of? (Please select all that apply)

- County council
- District council
- Town council
- Parish council
- Parish meeting

Please tell us the name of the district(s), town(s) or parish(es) councils you are a member of

If you are a member of a town and/or parish, please tell us which district this sits within

- Cherwell District Council
- Oxford City Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council

Section 1

The charter's aims represent our shared long-term goals. The charter's performance will be measured against these over time.

1. Stronger partnership working between Oxfordshire councils.

    Taking a 'local government family' approach to place-shaping, service delivery and supporting the needs of our residents.

2. Enhancing local democracy.

    Doing our bit to encourage resident and community participation in local democracy at all levels.

Do you think that these aims reflect the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

Section 2 – Our shared principles

Our shared principles are the 'golden thread' of values that underpin how we aim to meet the charter's commitments and achieve our strategic aims. These principles guide how we implement and integrate the charter, how we work together and how we treat each other.

You will have the opportunity to comment on each of the principles individually in the next few questions.

The shared principles are:

Mutual Respect

- Recognising and acknowledging our shared values and aims – to represent and deliver for our communities and residents.
- Treating each other with respect, civility, and dignity.
- Treating each council equitably and fairly, acting on good faith.
- Accommodating each council's unique working practices, where practicable.
- Abiding by codes of conduct in demonstrating respect and civility.

Relationship Building

- Building constructive and collaborative relationships between councils, councillors, clerks, officers, partners, and communities.
- Addressing barriers to building effective relationships.
- Creating opportunities to build relationships and connections.

Transparency and Accountability

- Optimising information sharing and communication.
- Sharing best practice, information, data, and knowledge.
- Following-up on decision-making and explaining decisions to communities impacted by them.

Do you think these are the right principles for the Oxfordshire Councils Charter?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Not sure

 [If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

Would you like to comment on any of the individual principles?

- Yes
- No

Principle 1: **Mutual Respect**

- Recognising and acknowledging our shared values and aims – to represent and deliver for our communities and residents.
- Treating each other with respect, civility, and dignity.
- Treating each council equitably and fairly, acting on good faith.
- Accommodating each council's unique working practices, where practicable.
- Abiding by codes of conduct in demonstrating respect and civility.

Would you like to comment on this principle?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next principle]

Do you think this principle reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

Do you think that anything about this principle should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

Principle 2: Relationship building
Relationship Building
- Building constructive and collaborative relationships between councils, councillors, clerks, officers, partners, and communities.
- Addressing barriers to building effective relationships.
- Creating opportunities to build relationships and connections.

Would you like to comment on this principle?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next principle]

Do you think this principle reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

Do you think that anything about this principle should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

Principle 3: Transparency and Accountability
Transparency and Accountability
- Optimising information sharing and communication.
- Sharing best practice, information, data, and knowledge.
- Following-up on decision-making and explaining decisions to communities impacted by them.

Would you like to comment on this principle?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next Section 3]

Do you think this principle reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

```

```

Do you think that anything about this principle should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```

```

Section 3 – Our shared commitments

These are our shared commitments to achieve our strategic aims. They are purposely kept at a high-level to enable each council to apply to their own priorities and ways of working individually, without creating an undue burden for councils with less resource and capacity.

You will have the opportunity to comment on each of the commitments individually in the next few questions.

The shared commitments are:

Communication

We will…
- Optimise how we communicate with each other.
- Communicate with respect and civility.
- Strive to communicate and explain decision-making.
- Communicate openly and transparently where it is appropriate to do so.

Consultation and Engagement

We will…
- Engage each other in our work as early as practicable, acknowledging the limitations and barriers of different stakeholders and communities.
- Strive to make consultation and engagement as accessible as possible.
- Consider each other in strategic decision making and future planning.
- Follow-up on consultations and feedback where possible.

Resources

We will…
- Share relevant and appropriate information to empower each other to best support our residents and communities.
- Optimise access and signposting to resources and practical support.
- Consider where resources and support can be effectively shared between councils to improve outcomes for residents.

Local Democracy

We will…
- Proactively work to empower our residents and communities to participate in local democracy.
- Take steps to engage young people to participate in our communities and local democracy.
- Centre our communities and residents in all that we do.
- Respect the democratic mandate of councillors at all levels.

Do you think these are the right commitments to include in the charter?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

```

```

Would you like to comment on any of the individual commitments?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to last question]

Commitment 1: Communication

We will…
- Optimise how we communicate with each other.
- Communicate with respect and civility.
- Strive to communicate and explain decision-making.
- Communicate openly and transparently where it is appropriate to do so.

Would you like to comment on this commitment?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next commitment]

Do you think this commitment reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

[If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

```

```

Do you think that anything about this commitment should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```
                                                                              
```

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this commitment?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```
                                                                              
```

Commitment 2: Consultation and Engagement

We will…
- Engage each other in our work as early as practicable, acknowledging the limitations and barriers of different stakeholders and communities.
- Strive to make consultation and engagement as accessible as possible.
- Consider each other in strategic decision making and future planning.
- Follow-up on consultations and feedback where possible.

Would you like to comment on this commitment?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next commitment]

Do you think this commitment reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

 [If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

```
                                                                              
```

Do you think that anything about this commitment should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```
                                                                              
```

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this commitment?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```
```

Commitment 3: Resources

We will…
- Share relevant and appropriate information to empower each other to best support our residents and communities.
- Optimise access and signposting to resources and practical support.
- Consider where resources and support can be effectively shared between councils to improve outcomes for residents.

Would you like to comment on this commitment?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to next commitment]

Do you think this commitment reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

Please tell us why you gave that answer.

```
```

Do you think that anything about this commitment should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

```
```

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this commitment?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

☐

Commitment 4 Local Democracy

We will…
- Proactively work to empower our residents and communities to participate in local democracy.
- Take steps to engage young people to participate in our communities and local democracy.
- Centre our communities and residents in all that we do.
- Respect the democratic mandate of councillors at all levels.

Would you like to comment on this commitment?

- Yes [go to next question]
- No [Skip to last question]

Do you think this commitment reflects the needs of Oxfordshire councils?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not sure

If not yes] Please tell us why you gave that answer.

☐

Do you think that anything about this commitment should be added, removed or changed?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

☐

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this commitment?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please tell us more.

Is there anything else you would like to say about the draft Oxfordshire Councils Charter?

- Yes
- No

[If yes] Please tell us more.