

## **CORPORATION BOARD**

### **Nominations, Remuneration & Governance Committee**

Tuesday 14 June 2022

Item 6.1

## **Public Value Statement**

### **Key Issues**

The Board's Public Value Statement was due for renewal in 2019 but, for various reasons, this review wasn't finalised.

The Clerk has reviewed the Public Value Statement and considerably simplified and shortened. Rather than repeating information found in other documents, it is proposed that the Public Value Statements 'signposts' the readers to the original information.

A track-changed Public Value Statement can be found as Appendix ONE. Appendix TWO sets out what these changes would look like in a simplified final draft of the new Public Value Statement.

### **Matters for Decision**

1. That the Committee approves the simplified Public Value Statement

### **Report Author**

Laura Grainger

Clerk to the Corporation & Governance Advisor

### **Supporting papers**

APPENDIX ONE – tracked version

APPENDIX TWO – final draft

# Public Value Statement

## Corporation Board – Governance Policies

### What is the purpose of this policy?

Abingdon & Witney College is committed to adding value to the social, economic and physical well-being of the local community it serves through the delivery of our strategic plan. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate how the College adds public value.

Public Value Statements are an amplification of the vision of a college and describe what the college aims to add value to the social, economic and physical well-being of the communities it serves.

### Who does this policy apply to?

This Policy applies to the College but is developed primarily as Governors being the audience so that they are able to be reassured of how the College adds public value. Governors and Senior Management Team have been involved in the development of the statement.

### Why do we have this policy?

#### Abingdon and Witney College – Public Value Statement 2016-17

Abingdon and Witney College is an exempt charity under the terms of the Charities Act 2006. In considering its vision, mission and values, Abingdon and Witney College Corporation has had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the reporting of public benefit and particularly to its supplementary public benefit guidance on the advancement of education.

According to the Association of Colleges (AoC) Code of Good Governance for English Colleges, Public Value Statements are optional. However, they provide guidance on Public Value Statements as follows:

*"The fundamental principle of a public value statement is that it should reflect individual College's approach to providing value and benefits to the wider community it serves".*

#### The Purpose of Abingdon and Witney College

The overarching purpose of the College is to ensure that our students are successfully prepared to contribute fully to their communities and to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives. The College experience will have a positive and lasting impact on all our students.

The College mission is to be the best performing, most responsive and highest quality College in Oxfordshire.

## Monitoring and review of the policy

Governors of the College will review and update the Public Value Statement annually, and as part of their review on the College Strategic Plan.

<u>Policy author</u>	<u>Ruth Reavley Laura Grainger, Clerk to the Corporation Board &amp; Governance Advisor</u>	<u>Approval date</u>	<u>21 February 2018 June 2022</u>
<u>Approved by</u>	<u>Corporation Board</u>	<u>Review date</u>	<u>June 2023 February 2018</u>
<u>In consultation with</u>	<u>Nominations, Remuneration and Governance Committee</u>	<u>EIA date</u>	<u>Not required</u>

## Our policy statements

Our Strategic Plan maps out the direction that the College will take over the coming five years in order to ensure that it both maintains and enhances its current reputation for providing an individual, stretching and supportive experience for its students and continues to develop high quality provision that meets the needs of employers and the wider community.

Implementation of our plan will deliver an experience for all our students that will make them the person of choice when they come to seek employment, promotion and/or further and higher study. We will do this by extending our successful and innovative and technologically advanced programmes to concentrate on employment skills and vocational expertise.

We will add public value through the delivery of our Strategic Plan: high level overview of the mission and values of the college, and the ways in which the college services employers and learners in the catchment area

Whilst the Strategic plan is the key document to how we add public value, other documents also demonstrate this:

- We demonstrate the effectiveness of use of public monies to fulfil the public benefit of the provision of community education in our Financial statements:
- We share Inspection reports and our awards for the public to see
- We provide transferrable skills by working in partnerships with other training providers and industry standard qualifications.
- We meet student needs by giving them information to support them through a wide range of educational, financial and personal challenges.
- We engage locally with employers
- We are responsive to local employer training needs and tailor part-time courses for the needs of local employers
- We are responsive to national skills agenda and apprenticeships, and demonstrate high-level and sector-specific involvement in skills development.
- We have corporate social responsibility and work on a range of initiatives which address social issues and meet local community leads

## To achieve this for our students, the College will provide

- Exceptional and sector-leading opportunities for students and staff to harness the benefits of advanced learning technologies within a fully refurbished and modernized estate
- Specialist provision for Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing, the Landbased and Creative Industries and the Business and Professional sector, whilst maintaining a high quality core general vocational offer
- High standards of teaching supported through a proactive and extensive staff development culture
- Innovative programmes that foster and enable the skills required for work to be acquired and developed, with high levels of employer endorsement and effective partnerships to ensure student progression into secure and valued professional futures that are valued and endorsed by employers
- A contemporary learning environment that enables innovation in curriculum delivery
- A regional centre of excellence for teacher training in the post-16 sector
- A robust financial base that enables growth and investment

The success of our plan is measured through the achievement of a set of key targets that focus on student success rates and destinations (progress), staff skills, vocational curriculum emphasis and financial performance.

## Abingdon and Witney College creates Public Value in these ways

- We are taking the lead in Further Education, securing futures through our innovative approach to local and national skills and employment needs.
- Our aim is to help people from south and west Oxfordshire of all ages and from all walks of life to develop and reach their goals.
- We help communities to thrive, and businesses to grow.

## For our stakeholders, we:

- provide the pathways for people to move onwards in their learning and their careers
- provide the quality of support needed for the success of our learners
- use information technology to help us reach, support and guide all learners
- provide a broad, distinctive curriculum choice and a rich student experience
- will teach and support students and trainees, so that they succeed in their studies and move on to their next stage of life
- foster close relationships with neighbouring schools, with parents, and with employers
- offer a diverse programme of learning opportunities. People will be able to learn, as they wish, at local centres, at home, online or in the workplace
- will offer Higher Education programmes, to help learner progression
- will provide satisfaction, challenge and support for our staff
- expect high achievement among our staff, and recognise that achievement
- respond quickly and credibly to stakeholder requests for training and development
- seek out relationships with employers to promote learning at work and the development of skills at all levels
- work with small and medium-sized businesses and in the developing sectors of local industry. In specialist areas our strengths will reach across the South East of England

- ~~add to local economic, environmental and social wellbeing~~
- ~~endeavour to be a good neighbour, to share our facilities, and work with our suppliers~~
- ~~maintain a sustainable and safe environment on our land and in our buildings~~

~~Members of the public can assess the value added to the local community by the College through:~~

~~Ofsted and QAA inspection reports~~

~~Student and employer surveys~~

~~Published accounts~~

~~The public records of College Corporation meetings~~

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