

Cherwell District Council

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 6 December 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Corkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present: Councillor Ken Atack
Chris Dickens
Steve Bladen

Officers: Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
Belinda Green, Joint Revenues and Benefits Manager
Ed Bailey, Corporate Performance Manager
Natasha Clark, Interim Democratic and Elections Manager
Aaron Hetherington, Democratic and Elections Officer

36 Declarations of Interest

Members made the following general declarations of interest:

Councillor Ian Corkin, declaration, as a board member of Graven Hill Village Development Company.

37 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

38 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

39 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 September 2016 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

40 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

41 **Internal Audit - Progress Report 2016/17**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which presented to receive PwC's verbal progress report summarising their internal audit work to date.

Resolved

- (1) That internal audit progress 2016/17 verbal update be noted.

42 **External Audit: Annual Audit Letter 2015/16**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to allow Members to consider the Ernst and Young LLP Annual Audit Letter. The report included comments on the external audit of the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the key issues in the External Audit: Annual Audit Letter 2015/2016 be noted.

43 **Corporate Fraud Team Update**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which provided members of Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee with an update on the joint Corporate Fraud team including a progress report for quarter two of 2016-2017 and to present members with the updated Joint Sanctions and Prosecutions Policy.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That, having given due consideration, the updated Joint Sanctions and Prosecutions Policy be endorsed.

44 **Quarter Two Risk Review 2016-17**

The Director of Strategy and Commissioning submitted a report to update the Committee on the management of Strategic, Corporate and Partnership risks during the second quarter of 2016/17.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the Full Strategic, Corporate and Partnership Risk Register for 2016/17 was reviewed.
- (2) That the risk exceptions highlighted and proposed actions be noted.

45 **Q2 Treasury Management Report**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to provide members information on the treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2016/17 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the second quarter (Q2) Treasury Management Report be noted.

46 **Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2016/17.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

47 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of the Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

48 **Q2 Treasury Management Report - Exempt Appendix**

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt appendix be noted.

49 **Finance Improvement Plan - Update**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted an exempt report to present the Finance Improvement Plan, which is an outcome of the KPMG Review of NNDR Overpayment report adopted by this Committee on 20 January 2016.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That John Cornett, KPMG, who presented the KPMG report into the overpayment of NNDR to the Government in December 2015, be invited to attend the January 2016 meeting of the Committee to review progress against the Finance Improvement Plan.
- (3) That, subject to the agreement of KPMG, it be noted that the Chief Finance Officer would submit a report to the March meeting of the Committee regarding the on-going implementation of the Finance Improvement Plan.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: