

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, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 21 June 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Hugo Brown (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Andrew Beere

Substitute Members:

Councillor Andrew Beere (In place of Councillor Sean Woodcock)

Also Present:

Maria Grindley, Associate Partner, Ernst & Young (External Audit)
Sue Gill, Ernst & Young (External Audit)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Officers:

Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Anita Bradley, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance
Sarah Cox, Chief Internal Auditor
Kerry MacDermott, Interim Assistant Director for Revenues and Benefits Services
Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes
Joanne Kaye, Strategic Business Partner
Katherine Kitashima, Audit Manager
Georgina Cox, Senior Auditor
Sharon Hickson, Democratic and Elections Officer
Aaron Hetherington, Democratic and Elections Team Leader

3 **Declarations of Interest**

9. Housing Benefit Subsidy.
Councillor Hugo Brown, Non Statutory Interest, as a member of the CSN Board.

4 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

5 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

7 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

8 **Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report**

The Director of Finance and Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes submitted a report which summarised the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring positions as at the end of March 2021.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee was responsible for monitoring the risk aspects of the report.

Resolved

- (1) That the risk aspects of the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report be noted
- (2) That the revised Risk and Opportunities Management Strategy 2021-22 be noted

9 **Housing Benefit Subsidy**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided members with an update on the Housing Benefit subsidy claim audit for the financial year 2019-2020.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted

10 **Final 2019/20 Annual Audit Letter**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which presented the final External Audit 2019/20 Annual Audit Letter and 2019/20 Audit Fee.

The Committee thanked the External Audit team for the work carried out.

Resolved

- (1) That the final 2019/20 Annual Audit Letter be noted
- (2) That the £101,410 audit fee for work over and above the 2019/20 scale fee of £40,138 be noted.

11 **2020/21 Statement of Accounts Review**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided an opportunity for the Committee to review the draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

The Committee thanked the finance team for the work carried out this year and in the previous year.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts be noted.
- (2) That the accounting policies as approved by the Chief Finance Officer be approved
- (3) That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 be approved

12 **Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor 2020/21**

The Chief Internal Auditor presented a report which summarised the outcome of the Internal Audit work in 2020/21 and provided an opinion on the Council's System of Internal Control.

The Committee and Chief Internal Auditor thanked the internal audit team for their performance through the year and the effort required to deliver the plan.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the report be endorsed

13 **Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2021/22**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which presented the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2021/22.

Resolved

- (1) That the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2021/22 be noted

14 **Treasury Management Outturn Report - 2020-21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy and Prudential Indicators for 2020-21 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the 2020-21 Treasury Management Outturn Report be noted.
- (2) That Council be recommended to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2020-21.

15 **Work Programme**

The Assistant Director of Finance gave an overview of the indicative work programme for the 2021/2022 municipal year.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: