



**Summary of the Decisions Taken at the Meeting  
of Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee held on 26 July 2023**

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Risk Based Verification</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance &amp; S151 Officer</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To provide members with details of the Risk Based Verification (RBV) policy and to seek approval for the reviewed RBV Policy for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this report</p> <p>1.2 To approve the Risk Based Verification policy for the financial year 2023/24 (Appendix 1).</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the report be noted</p> <p>(2) That having given due consideration, the Risk Based Verification Policy for the financial year 2023/2024 be approved.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Annual Governance Statement 2022-23</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer.</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>The report sets out the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the Council for 2022-23 for approval. The AGS summarises the key governance</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That, subject to the Monitoring Officer making any necessary amendments in the light of comments made by the Committee, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer that the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Annual</p>

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	<p>issues for the Council and the actions required to address these. The AGS is required to be approved by those charged with governance, the Accounts Audit &amp; Risk Committee, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23.</p> <p>1.2 To authorise the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of Cherwell District Council.</p>	<p>Governance Statement on behalf of Cherwell District Council.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Risk Monitoring Report Quarter 1, 2023</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Customer Focus</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks and to seek the committee’s views on the Council’s Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Risk Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 2023 be noted</p> <p>(2) That the Councils current Risk Management Strategy 2022/23 be noted and no improvements or comments be referred to Executive for consideration.</p>

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	<p>Report for Quarter 1 2023.</p> <p>1.2 To review the Council's current Risk Management Strategy 2022/23 (Appendix 2) and recommend any improvements for Executive consideration.</p>	
10	<p><b>External Audit Update</b></p> <p>External Auditors, Ernst &amp; Young to provide verbal update</p>	<p>External Audit had advised they would not be providing a verbal item therefore this item was not considered.</p>
11	<p><b>Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor 2022/23</b></p> <p>Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor 2022/23</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>This is the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor, summarising the outcome of the Internal Audit work in 2022/23, and providing an opinion on the Council's System of Internal Control.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 Consider and endorse this annual report.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That, having given due consideration, the Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor 2022/23 be endorsed</p>
12	<p><b>Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2023/24</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance &amp; S151 Officer</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>The report presents the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 note and comment on the</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2023/24 be noted.</p>

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	Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2023/24.	
13	<p><b>Internal Audit Charter</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>This report presents the Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Quality Assurance Programme for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 Approve the Internal Audit Charter.</p> <p>1.2 Note the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That, having given due consideration, the Internal Audit Charter be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme be noted.</p>
14	<p><b>Update on Counter Fraud Annual Plan 2022/23 and presenting the Counter Fraud Annual Plan 2023/24</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance &amp; S151 Officer</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>This report presents a summary of activity against the Annual Plan for the Counter-Fraud service at CDC for 2022/23, which was previously presented to the Accounts, Audit &amp; Risk July 2022 committee. The report also presents the new Counter Fraud Plan for the year 2023/24.</p> <p>The Plan supports the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy by ensuring that the Council has in place proportionate and effective resources and controls to prevent and detect fraud as well as investigate those matters that do arise.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the summary of activity against the Annual Counter Fraud Plan for 2022/23 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Counter Fraud Plan for 2023/24 be noted.</p>

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	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 Comment and note the summary of activity against the Annual Counter Fraud Plan for 2022/23.</p> <p>1.2 Comment and note the Counter Fraud Plan for 2023/24.</p>	
15	<p><b>Treasury Management Report - Annual Performance Report 2022/23 (March 2023)</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To receive information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2022-23 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Report.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Treasury Management Report – Annual Performance Report 2022/23 be noted.</p>
16	<p><b>Treasury Management Report - Q1 2023/24 (June 2023)</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To receive information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2023-24 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Q1 2023/24 Treasury Management Report be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the strategy for future borrowing requirements be noted</p>

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	<p>All treasury management activities undertaken to date during the financial year 2023-24 complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy, and all Prudential Indicators were met during the reporting period.</p> <p>Over the course of the year, there is an overall forecast underspend of £0.376m.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.2 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Report.</p> <p>1.3 To note the strategy for future borrowing requirements at Appendix 1.</p>	
17	<p><b>2022/23 Accounting Policies</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To review and approve the Accounting Policies for inclusion in the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. The Council is required to set accounting policies which set out the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules, and practices applied by an authority in preparing and presenting financial statements. The accounting policies describe how the Council has interpreted and applied the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. There have been no material changes to the Accounting Policies.</p> <p>In addition, to note that the 2022/23 Draft Statement of Accounts were not</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That having given due consideration, the accounting policies as approved by the Chief Finance Officer be approved</p> <p>(2) That it be noted the 2022/23 Draft Statement of Accounts were not published by the 31 May deadline be noted.</p>

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	<p>published by the 31 May 2023 deadline, due to delays in the audit of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the accounting policies as approved by the Chief Finance Officer (Appendix 1).</p> <p>1.2 Note that the 2022/23 Draft Statement of Accounts were not published by the 31 May 2023 deadline.</p>	
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Support to Subsidiaries</b></p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To inform the Committee of the overall level of support provided to the Council's subsidiaries and how this is considered as part of the external audit.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the report and raise any queries on the exempt appendix.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the report be noted.</p>
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Work Programme</b></p> <p>To consider and review the Work Programme.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the work Programme be noted</p>
<b>20</b>	<p><b>Support to Subsidiaries - exempt appendix</b></p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the exempt appendix be noted.</p>