



Committee: Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA

Membership

**Councillor Lynn Pratt
(Chairman)**

Councillor Besmira Brasha
Councillor Donna Ford
Councillor Simon Lytton

Councillor Simon Holland (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Andrew Crichton
Councillor Harry Knight
Councillor Ian Middleton

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 September 2023.

5. Chairman's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chairman.

6. Performance, Finance and Risk Monitoring Report (Pages 9 - 30)

Report of Assistant Director – Customer Focus

Purpose of report

To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring Report for September 2023.
- 1.2 To note the Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 24 (appendix 2)

7. Update on Counter Fraud Annual Plan 2023/24 (Pages 31 - 40)

Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and S151 Officer

Purpose of report

This report presents a summary of activity against the Annual Plan for the Counter-Fraud service at CDC for 2023/24, which was previously presented to the Accounts, Audit & Risk July 2023 committee. 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.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Comment and note the summary of activity against the Annual Counter Fraud Plan for 2023/24.

8. External Audit Progress 2021/22

Verbal update by Ernst & Young.

9. Treasury Management Mid Year Review (Pages 41 - 56)

Report of the Assistant Director of Finance.

Purpose of report

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.

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.

Over the course of the year, there is an overall Treasury Management forecast underspend of £1.214m compared to the approved budget.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report.

10. Local Code of Corporate Governance (Pages 57 - 72)

Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Purpose of report

To review the Local Code of Corporate Governance. The code is part of the overall system of internal control at the Council and supports the provision of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is approved annually by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 to approve the reviewed Local Code of Corporate Governance (Appendix 1).

11. Financial Management Code - Forecast Self-Assessment Update (Pages 73 - 80)

Report of the Assistant Director of Finance S151

Purpose of report

To update the Committee that the results of the Council's forecast self-assessment position at February 2024 against the requirements of CIPFA's Financial Management Code is continued strong compliance, demonstrating a resilient and sustainable approach to managing the Council's funds.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the Council's forecast self-assessment position at February 2024 against the requirements of CIPFA's Financial Management Code

12. Work Programme (Pages 81 - 82)

To consider and review the Work Programme.

13. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Natasha Clark or David Rogers, Democratic and Elections
democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221534

Yvonne Rees

Chief Executive

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