

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 15 December 2015 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Ray Jelf
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Lawrie Stratford

Substitute Members: Councillor Barry Wood (In place of Councillor Rose Stratford)

Also Present: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence: Councillor Rose Stratford

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
John Cornett (KPMG)
James Doble, Deputy Monitoring Officer

44 Adjournment

The Chairman declared the meeting open and outlined that John Cornett (KPMG) had been delayed in traffic, on a proposal from the chair and with the agreement of the meeting an adjournment of 15 minutes took place.

**(The meeting adjourned at 6.15pm)
(The meeting reconvened at 6.30pm)**

45 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

46 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

47 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

48 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

49 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

50 **Consideration of KPMG Report into the Overpayment of NNDR to the Government**

The Chief Executive in introducing the report outlined that due to the nature of the report officer attendance had been restricted to herself as Head of Paid Service and James Doble as Deputy Monitoring Officer.

John Cornett (KPMG) gave a detailed presentation of the draft report of KPMG into the overpayment of NNDR to the government. It was confirmed that the findings and timeline only had been sent to all those interviewed for comment. During the course of the presentation members asked many questions on the report and provided comment on the draft. Clarification was provided including the role played by individual officers and the finance team. During the course of debate it was expressed by some members that the incident had given them cause for concern and adversely affected their confidence. It was agreed that clarification would be sought on when senior officers first became aware of the issue.

Members thanked John Cornett for the clarity of his presentation.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be provisionally accepted.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be requested to circulate the full provisional report to all those that were interviewed, External Auditor (EY) and Internal Auditor (PWC) on a confidential basis for their comment and response to the committee at its 20 January 2016 meeting.

- (3) That the Chief Executive be requested to produce a management response to the recommendations and action plan for consideration by the Committee on 20 January 2016.
- (4) That the meeting of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 20 January 2016 consider the adoption of the final report, management response and action plan.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

Chairman:

Date: