

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 2 December 2015 at 6.30 pm

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

Also Present: Councillor Ken Attack

Apologies for absence: Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Colin Clarke

Officers: Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement
Shirley Vaughan, Performance and Planning Officer
Chris Dickens, Chief Internal Auditor
James Doble, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Sharon Hickson, Acting Democratic and Elections Officer

32 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

33 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

34 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

35 Minutes

That Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Item 21 Statement of Accounts 2014/15

Paragraph 4, 2012/13 to be changed to "2011/12."

The minutes of the special meeting held on 9 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. The filming and broadcasting of the meeting was permitted, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.
2. He had agreed to change the order of the agenda and would be moving agenda item 9 before agenda item 7.
3. Update on Reclaim of NNDR
Following the council's initial approach to the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the reclaim, the Council was now in dialogue with the department. These discussions are sensitive and are complicated by the status of the money that was overpaid, that is the scheme which was operating when the overpayment occurred was under a scheme repealed in 2013 and that the issue in question is a simple overpayment as opposed to a gain or loss of income or a retrospective adjustment. It was too early at this time to go into details on these discussions or give an indication of the likelihood of repayment as to do so could fetter the government's position and ability to repay in full.
4. Review by KPMG into Overpayment of NNDR

This is progressing and a draft document will be made available to Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring Officer by the end of the week, subject to there being no major issues with the draft, an agenda will be published Monday 7 December 2015 for an extraordinary meeting of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee to be held at 6pm Tuesday 15 December 2015 to enable the Committee to consider the report.

37

External Audit: Annual Audit Letter 2014-15

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement which summarised the External Audit work for 2014-15.

Resolved

- (1) That the key issues raised in the letter be noted.

38

Internal Audit - Progress Report 2015-16

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement which sought consideration of Internal Audit report which summarised their internal audit work to date.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed to the Committee that a training package would be available for Members following the 2016 Elections, the package would include Risk Management training for all Members..

Resolved

- (1) That the progress report be noted.

39 **Second Quarter Risk Review 2015-16 and Update on Development of Risk & Opportunities Management Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Transformation on the management of Strategic, Corporate and Partnership Risks during the second quarter of 2014/15 and the progress made on the 2015/16 Risk & Opportunities Management Strategy review, Risk Training programme and 2015 Risk Audit.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the decrease in scores to one shared risk be noted.
- (3) That the progress made on the 205/16 Risk and Opportunities Management Strategy review, the Risk Training Programme and the 2015 Risk Audit be noted.

40 **Q2 Treasury Management Report**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement which set out treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2015/16 for Quarter 2 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

In response to Member questions the Head of Finance and Procurement informed members that interest accrued on the remaining investment held within Iceland would remain in Iceland accruing higher interest than would be received, if paid back at this time.

Resolved

- (1) That the Quarter 2 Treasury report be noted.

41 **Work Programme 2015-16**

The Committee considered its Work Programme 2015-16.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

42 **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 paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of that Act .

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

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: