

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 31 July 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Hugo Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock
Councillor Barry Wood

Also Present: Neil Harris, Ernst Young (External Audit)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Hannah Banfield
Councillor Nicholas Mawer

Officers: Adele Taylor, Executive Director: Finance (Interim) & Section 151 Officer
Dominic Oakeshott, Assistant Director (Interim) - Finance
Hedd Vaughan Evans, Assistant Director Performance and Transformation
Louise Tustian, Acting Performance and Communications Manager
Aaron Hetherington, Democratic and Elections Officer

16 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

18 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Following discussion with officers, the date of the September meeting would now be held on 25 September 2019.
2. The work programme would be circulated to members at the next meeting, 25 September 2019.

20 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

21 **Review by Those Charged with Governance**

The Executive Director: Finance (Interim) which set out the response to Ernst & Young (EY) regarding the review of management assurance.

Resolved

- (1) That it be agreed that the Chairman of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee sign the response relating to management assurances from Those Charged with Governance.

22 **External Audit – Annual Audit Opinion 2018-19**

The Executive Director: Finance (Interim) submitted a report which set out the External Audit Opinion for 2018/19.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the External Audit Opinion (ISA260) for 2018/19 from the council's External Auditors, Ernst & Young (EY) be noted.

23 **Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 and Letter of Representation**

The Executive Director, Finance (Interim) submitted a report to ask members to consider: The Statement of Accounts 2018/19, Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and the Letter of Representation 2018/19.

In introducing the report, The Executive Director, Finance (Interim) provided an update sheet which set out some clarifications to the Statement.

The Executive Director, Finance (Interim) and the Chairman recorded their thanks to her team: To the former Deputy Section 151 Officer, Kelly Watson, Assistant Director - Finance (Interim), Dominic Oakeshott, Project Manager,

Isaac Aisu and Business Partner, Atilla Pek for their work on the Statement of Accounts 2018/19.

Resolved

- (1) That the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 be endorsed and once the final audit opinion is received the Interim Executive Director Finance (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Chairman of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee (or Vice Chairman in case the Chairman is unavailable) be authorised to sign the accounts and it be noted that if any material changes to the accounts are required, then an additional committee meeting would be convened to consider the changes.
- (2) That the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 be endorsed.
- (3) That the Letter of Representation 2018/19 be approved.

24 **Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report - May 2019**

The Assistant Director: Performance and Transformation and Assistant Director: Finance (Interim) submitted a report which summarised the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring position as at the end of each month.

Resolved

- (1) That the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report be noted.
- (2) That having given due consideration, the Leadership Risk Register be noted and no issues be identified for further consideration.

25 **2018-19 Treasury Management Annual Report**

The Report of the Executive Director: Finance (Interim) submitted a report which presented information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy during 2018/19 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report in line with the Treasury Management Strategy be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.47 pm

Chairman:

Date: