

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 22 January 2020 at 6.30 pm

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

Councillor Hannah Banfield
Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present: Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council
Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Financial Management & Governance
Neil Harris, Associate Partner, Ernst Young, External Auditor
Anand Persaud, CW Audit Services

Apologies for absence: Councillor Les Sibley

Officers: Adele Taylor, Executive Director: Finance (Interim) & Section 151 Officer
Dominic Oakeshott, Assistant Director (Interim) - Finance
Sharon Hickson, Democratic and Elections Officer

50 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

51 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

52 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

54 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

55 **Internal Audit - Progress Report 2019/20**

The Executive Director – Finance (Interim) submitted a report which presented the CW Internal Audit Services progress report for 2019/20.

A revised appendix was circulated to the Committee. The Audit Manager, CW Audit Services highlighted the changes to the figures in section 2, the Executive Director, Finance (Interim) reassured members that there were no concerns regarding the numbers contained in the summary table on Implementation of agreed actions and that these were expected to reduce again by the time the next report was considered.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the 2019/20 progress report from CW Internal Audits Services be noted.

56 **Draft Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies 2020-21**

The Executive Director Finance (Interim) submitted a report which presented the draft, capital, investment and treasury management strategies for 2020-21.

These reports were presented in a draft version to the Committee at the meeting on 20 November 2019 and had subsequently been updated following comments from Members and advice from the Council's treasury management advisers, Arlingclose. They had also been updated with figures from the 31 December 2019 monitoring reports.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Treasury Management Strategies 2020/21 be recommended to Council for adoption.

(Councillor Sean Woodcock requested that his abstention in the vote be recorded in the minutes)

57 **Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programme for the remainder of 2019/20 and the indicative work programme for 2020/21.

The Assistant Director – Finance (Interim), highlighted the meeting entry for 24 June 2020, explaining that this would only take place if the accounts for 2019/20 were ready for sign off.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration the Work Programme 2019/20 and 2020/21 be noted.

58 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 3 and 7 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

59 **Progress of Counter Fraud Service**

The Senior Investigation Officer - Corporate Fraud Team submitted a report which provided an overview of the progress of the counter fraud response following the delegation of authority in July 2018 to Oxford City Council.

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt report be noted.

60 **Closure of Account 2018/19 Update**

The Executive Director of Finance (Interim) provided an exempt verbal update on the Closure of Accounts 2018/19.

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt verbal update be noted.

61 **Executive Director Finance (Interim)**

The Chairman advised the Committee that this was the last meeting of the Committee that the Executive Director, Finance (Interim) would be attending as she was leaving Cherwell District Council at the end of February to take up a new role at another local authority.

The Chairman also advised the Committee that the Engagement Partner, Ernst & Young, External Audit was moving roles within the company and therefore this would be his last meeting.

Members thanked both the Executive Director, Finance (Interim) and the Engagement Partner, Ernst and Young for their hard work supporting the Committee and wished them well in their new posts

The meeting ended at 7.33 pm

Chairman:

Date: