

# Cherwell District Council

## Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

29 July 2020

### Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2019/20

#### Report of the Director of Finance

This report is public

#### Purpose of report

To receive the Internal Audit Annual Report, which provides the Head of Internal Audit's opinion and also summarises the activities of Internal Audit for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

#### 1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 to note and receive the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report and opinion.

#### 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Internal Audit undertakes a programme of work each year which is produced in consultation with senior management. This programme of work allows the Head of Internal Audit to provide an Annual Report and Opinion at the year end, which allows the committee to assess the overall quality of the control framework in operation.

#### 3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The Council contracted the provision of its Internal Audit for 2019/20 to CW Audit Services Limited, who have completed a range of audits during the year aimed at assessing the levels of assurance that can be assessed against the Council's System of Internal Control.
- 3.2 The attached report (Appendix 1) provides the Annual Report and Opinion, which in summary allows the Head of Internal Audit to provide an **overall opinion** that **significant** assurance can be given that there is a generally sound system of internal control, designed to meet the organisation's objectives, and that controls are generally being applied consistently. However, some weakness in the design

and/or inconsistent application of controls put the achievement of particular objectives at risk.

- 3.3 For 2020/21, the opportunities for joint working have been reviewed and a decision made for OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) Internal Audit team to provide a fully integrated internal audit service across both OCC and CDC, from April 2020. Over recent weeks there has been a process of handover to ensure a smooth and seamless transfer. This report will be the last for CW Audit Services Limited.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion is an important part of assessing the level of assurance that can be assessed from the Council's System of Internal Control. The overall opinion helps to support the Council's Annual Governance Statement, where the Head of Internal Audit's opinion forms an important element.

## **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 None

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Members may choose to seek additional information from CW audit services and officers.

## **7.0 Implications**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

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### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:

Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-contentious, 01295 221695  
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## Risk Management Implications

7.3 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by: Louise Tustian

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## 8.0 Decision Information

### Wards Affected

All wards are affected

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All corporate plan themes.

### Lead Councillor

None

## Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	CW Audit Services Annual Report and Opinion – 2019/20
Background Papers	
None	
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