

Cherwell District Council

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee held at Virtual meeting, on 23 September 2020 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Hugo Brown (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Hannah Banfield
Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present:

Councillor Tony Ilott; Lead Member for Financial Management and Governance
Councillor Barry Wood; Leader of the Council
Maria Grindley, Associate Partner, Ernst & Young (external audit)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Nathan Bignell

Officers:

Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance
Belinda Green, Operations Director - CSN Resources
Sarah Cox, Chief Internal Auditor
Shaista Moughal, Strategic Business Partner
Tracey Holland, Team Leader - Systems, Performance and Subsidy (CSN)
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager
Sharon Hickson, 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 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 **Chairman's Announcements**

The were no Chairman's announcements.

20 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

21 **Housing Benefit Subsidy**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided the committee with an update on the Housing Benefit subsidy claim audit for the financial year 2018-2019.

The Operations Director – CSN Resources explained that this report had been due to be submitted to the March 2020 committee meeting but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic had been delayed and therefore was being presented later than in previous years. The subsidy claim for 2019-2020 had been submitted in April 2020 and the auditors would undertake a detailed audit in Autumn 2020.

Resolved

(1) That the contents of the report be noted.

22 **Internal Audit Progress Report 2020/21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which presented the Internal Audit progress for 2020/21.

The Chief Internal Auditor updated members on resources confirming that appointments had now been made to the positions of Senior Auditor and Assistant Auditor Trainee.

Resolved

(1) That the progress of the 20/21 Internal Audit Plan and the outcome of the completed audits be noted.

23 **Treasury Management Report - Q1 2020-21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2020-21 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the June 2020 Treasury Management Report be noted.

24 **2019/20 Accounts Update (Verbal)**

The Director of Finance and Associate Partner Ernst & Young, the council's external auditor, confirmed that the council had submitted the 2019/20 accounts on time. Ernst & Young began sampling work this week, in preparation for on-site work on 5 October.

Resolved

- (1) That the verbal update be noted.

25 **Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programmes. The Director of Finance advised the Committee that a report on the Outcome of the Redmond consultation would be added to the November meeting

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the addition of Outcome to the Redmond consultation report being added to the November agenda, the work programme be noted.

26 **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, Paragraph 3 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.

27 **Treasury Management Appendix 1 EXEMPT**

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: