

Cherwell District Council

Council

19 May 2021

Changes to Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference

Report of Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

The report recommends approval of changes to the terms of reference for the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee.

1.0 Recommendations

Council is recommended:

- 1.1 to approve the proposed terms of reference for the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The existing terms of reference for the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee would benefit from alignment with current best practice.
- 2.2 The terms of reference proposed at Appendix 1 are accordingly based on a Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) model template, which covers what CIPFA currently recommend as best practice.
- 2.3 The proposed new terms of reference were agreed by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 17 March 2021.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 At its meeting on 20 January 2021, the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee agreed to review recommended best practice within CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance (2018) and agree additions to the AARC work programme.
- 3.2 One such addition comprised a review of the terms of reference for the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee.

- 3.3 It was therefore agreed to include within the work programme for the March meeting of the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee a review of the Committee's current terms of reference, in particular the extent to which the current terms of reference accord with CIPFA recommended guidelines, and to seek approval of any changes required to those terms of reference to align them with CIPFA best practice.
- 3.4 The terms of reference at Appendix 1 of this report which Council is recommended to approve accordingly follow best practice as recommended by CIPFA's Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018, and were agreed by the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting 17 March 2021.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 This report aligns the terms of reference for the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee with CIPFA's Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018, and, following agreement of those terms by the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee on grounds of best practice, is now recommended for approval by Council.

5.0 Consultation

Not applicable

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: No alternative options have been identified as the Terms of Reference which are the subject of this report follow best practice as currently recommended by CIPFA.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 01295 221845
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Legal Implications

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

Comments checked by: Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-contentious, 01295 221695
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Risk Implications

7.3 There are no risk management issues arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by: Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes, 01295 221786 louise.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision (N/A)

Financial Threshold Met: N/A

Community Impact Threshold Met: N/A

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All corporate plan themes.

Lead Councillor

Councillor Tony Ilott – Lead Member for Financial Management and Governance

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Terms of Reference for Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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