

Cherwell District Council

Accounts Audit and Risk Committee

28 September 2022

External Audit – Audit Planning Report 2021/22

Report of the Assistant Director of Finance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To receive a report setting out the External Audit Planning Report for 2021/22.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the External Audit Planning Report for 2021/22 from our External Auditors, Ernst & Young (EY).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the External Audit Planning Report 2021/22 which outlines the work the external auditors plan to undertake to audit the Statement of Accounts and be able to provide their audit opinion for 2021/22.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 External Audit undertakes its work in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, the Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd and auditing standards.
- 3.2 The Audit Planning Report sets out the methodology, approach and timescales that EY will take in relation to undertaking the work required for the audit of the Statement of Accounts 2021/22.
- 3.3 The report sets out the areas of focus and their prioritisation for the current year's audit along with the rationale and expected audit approach. The areas of focus identified beginning on page 5 of Appendix 1 may change to reflect any significant findings or subsequent issues the auditors identify during the audit.

- 3.4 In addition to the areas of focus that remain from prior years, two new areas of focus have been added for the 2021/22 audit. Because these are new, they have been highlighted red in the table on pages 5 and 6 of Appendix 1. Areas of focus from prior years are highlighted in yellow. These new areas of focus are derived from national issues surrounding Infrastructure Valuations and International Standard on Auditing require a focus on rental income, of which Cherwell has significant amounts.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The External Audit Planning Report for 2020/21 has been submitted by Ernst & Young to inform the Committee.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 None.

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:

Helen Lolas, Team Leader, Legal Services and Solicitor, 07801 400941
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Risk Implications

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

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus,
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Equalities and inclusion implications

7.4 There are no equalities nor inclusion implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus,

Tel: 01295 221556

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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 Nell, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – External Audit Planning Report 2021/22

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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