



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Committee: **Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee**

Date: **Wednesday 16 July 2025**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD**

Membership

**Councillor Simon Lytton
(Chair)**

Councillor Besmira Brasha
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Robert Parkinson

Councillor David Rogers (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Frank Ideh
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Dom Vaitkus

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Minutes (Pages 7 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 May 2025.

4. Chair's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chair.

5. Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chair to report on any requests to address the meeting.

6. Internal Audit Progress Update (Pages 15 - 32)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report provides the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee with an update on delivery of the internal audit work programme for 2025/26. It also provides an update on the three audits from the 2024/25 work programme which are currently being concluded.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the progress made in delivering the 2025/26 internal audit work programme, and the position with the remaining audits from the 2024/25 programme.

7. Counter Fraud Progress Report (Pages 33 - 40)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report presents an update on counter fraud work undertaken so far in 2025/26.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the counter fraud progress report.

8. Risk Monitoring Report Year End 2024-2025 (Pages 41 - 52)

Report of Assistant Director – Customer Focus

Purpose of report

To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring Report for Year End 2024-25.

9. Housing Benefit Subsidy Audit 2021/22 (Pages 53 - 68)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide members of this Committee with an update on the final position of the Housing Benefit subsidy claim audit for the financial year 2021/22.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report

10. Housing Management Performance (Pages 69 - 106)

Report of Assistant Director – Wellbeing & Housing

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an annual report relating to housing complaints performance, in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the content of the report and appendices. The appendices, including the Complaints Handling Code self-assessment, will be published on the Council's website and will form the basis of the Council's return to the Housing Ombudsman for 2024-25.

11. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 (Pages 107 - 126)

Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

The report sets out the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the Council for 2024-25 for approval. The AGS summarises the key governance issues for the Council and the actions required to address these. The AGS is required to be approved by those charged with governance, the Accounts Audit & Risk Committee, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25.

- 1.2 To authorise the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of Cherwell District Council.

12. Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 (Pages 127 - 298)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide an opportunity for review of the draft 2024/25 Statement of Accounts which were published on the council's website on 27 June 2025.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the report and publication of the draft statement of accounts 2024/25 (Appendix 1).

13. Treasury Management Q1 Report 2025/26 (Pages 299 - 308)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2025-26 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

To demonstrate that all treasury management activities undertaken during the first quarter of 2025-26 complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Performance report

14. Review of Committee Work Programme (Pages 309 - 310)

To consider and review the Work Programme.

15. Urgent Business

The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members' Lounge at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Patrick Davis, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221534

Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer

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