



**Summary of the Decisions Taken at the Meeting  
of Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee held on 16 July 2025**

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Internal Audit Progress Update</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the progress made in delivering the 2025/26 internal audit work programme, and the position with the remaining audits from the 2024/25 programme be noted.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Counter Fraud Progress Report</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>This report presents an update on counter fraud work undertaken so far in 2025/26.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves to:</p> <p>1.1 Note the counter fraud progress report.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the counter fraud progress report be noted.</p>

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8	<p><b>Risk Monitoring Report Year End 2024-2025</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Customer Focus</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit &amp; Risk Committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring Report for Year End 2024-25.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Risk Monitoring Report for Year End 2024-25 be noted.</p>
9	<p><b>Housing Benefit Subsidy Audit 2021/22</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this report</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the update on the final position of the Housing Benefit subsidy claim audit for the financial year 2021/22 be noted.</p>
10	<p><b>Housing Management Performance</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Wellbeing &amp; Housing</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To provide the Committee with an annual report relating to housing complaints performance, in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Housing Management Performance Annual Report submitted in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code be noted.</p> <p>(2) That it be noted that Housing Management Performance Report and the Complaints Handling Code self-assessment,</p>

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	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>would be published on the Council's website and would form the basis of the Council's return to the Housing Ombudsman for 2024-25.</p>
11	<p><b>Annual Governance Statement 2024/25</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>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 &amp; Risk Committee, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of Cherwell District Council.</p>
12	<p><b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the report and publication of the draft statement of accounts 2024/25 be noted.</p>

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	<p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the report and publication of the draft statement of accounts 2024/25 (Appendix 1).</p>	
13	<p><b>Treasury Management Q1 Report 2025/26</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Performance report</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the contents of the Treasury Management Quarter 1 Performance report be noted.</p>
14	<p><b>Review of Committee Work Programme</b></p> <p>To consider and review the Work Programme.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the work programme update be noted.</p>