

Cherwell District Council

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 17 November 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman)
Councillor Hugo Brown (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Adam Nell
Councillor Sean Woodcock
Councillor Patrick Clarke

Substitute Members:

Councillor Patrick Clarke (in place of Councillor Tom Wallis)

Also Present:

Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council
Maria Grindley, Associate Partner, Ernst & Young (external audit)
Sue Gill, Ernst & Young (external audit)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Tom Wallis

Officers:

Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Anita Bradley, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance
Sarah Cox, Chief Internal Auditor
Tessa Clayton, Audit Manager
Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader
Houdesh Luchmun, Insight Analyst
Sharon Hickson, Democratic and Elections Officer

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

40 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

41 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no chairman's announcements.

43 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

44 **Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report**

The Director of Finance and Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes submitted a report which summarised the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring positions as at the end of September 2021/Quarter 2.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee was responsible for monitoring the risk aspects of the report.

Resolved

- (1) That the risk aspect of the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report be noted.

45 **Update on Counter Fraud Annual Plan 2021/22**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which summarised the activity against the Annual Plan for the Counter-Fraud service at Cherwell District Council for 2021/22.

Resolved

- (1) That the summary of activity against the Annual Counter Fraud Plan for 2021/22 be noted.

46 **Treasury Management Report - Q2 (September 2021)**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2021-22 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the Q2 (September 2021) Treasury Management Report be noted.

47 **Appointment of External Auditors**

The Director of Finance submitted a report requesting the Accounts Audit and Risk Committee to make a recommendation to Council for how external auditors will be appointed from the financial year 2023/24.

Resolved

- (1) That Full Council be recommended to allow Public Sector Audit Appointments to appoint external auditors on behalf of the Council.

48 **Work Programme**

The Assistant Director of Finance informed Members that two more items would be added to the January Meeting: "Annual Governance Statement 2021 Update" and "External Auditors Annual Report and Value for Money Commentary".

The Assistant Director of Finance informed members that a training programme was being devised with training session dates to be confirmed.

Resolved

- (1) That subject to "Annual Governance Statement 2021 Update" and "External Auditors Annual report and Value for Money Commentary" being added to the January meeting, the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.09 pm

Chairman:

Date: