

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 25 January 2023 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Donna Ford (Chairman)
Councillor Hugo Brown (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Patrick Clarke
Councillor Andrew Crichton
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Chris Pruden

Substitute Members:

Councillor Sandy Dallimore (in place of Councillor Wood)
Councillor Andrew Beere (in place of Councillor Woodcock)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Sean Woodcock
Councillor Barry Wood

Also Present:

Councillor Adam Nell – Portfolio Holder for Finance

Also Present (virtual)

Maria Grindley, Audit Partner, Ernst & Young (External Audit)
Alison Kennett, Audit Manager, Ernst & Young (External Audit)

Officers:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance & S151 Officer
Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law, Governance & Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer
Joanne Kaye, Strategic Finance Business Partner
Sharon Hickson, Democratic and Elections Officer

Officers Attending Virtually:

Sarah Cox, Chief Internal Auditor
Katherine Kitashima, Audit Manager

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

50 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

52 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

53 **Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 - Update on Actions**

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report to consider an update on actions from the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020/2021.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer advised that point 7 of the Draft Terms of Reference of the Corporate Oversight and Knowledge Governance Group should not include reference to Audit & Governance and should read "To recommend to the Audit & Risk Committee as to any strategy for gaining assurance on risk management and internal control".

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration the update on the actions arising from the Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 be noted
- (2) That the formation of the Corporate Oversight & Knowledge Governance Group by the Monitoring Officer be noted.

54 **Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report which gave an update on Internal Audit Progress for 2022/23.

The Chief Internal Auditor provided Members with an update on the implementation of agreed management actions advising that the implementation rate was 80% with a further 15% not yet due. The amount outstanding was a very small percentage and monitored regularly

Resolved

- (1) That the progress with the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan and the outcome of the completed audits be noted.

55 **Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies 2023-24**

The Assistant Director Finance submitted a report which presented the draft Capital and Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-24.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies 2023-24 be recommended to Executive to endorse and recommend to Council for adoption

56 **Treasury Management Report - Q3 2022/23 (December 2022)**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report which provided information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2022-23 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of this Treasury Management Report be noted.

57 **Work Programme**

The Assistant Director of Finance advised the Committee of the work programme items for the 22 March Meeting.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme update be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

Chairman:

Date: