



Committee: Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: Wednesday 17 July 2024

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA

Membership

**Councillor Nick Cotter
(Chairman)**

Councillor Besmira Brasha
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Alisa Russell

Councillor David Rogers (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Jean Conway
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. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 May 2024.

5. Chairman's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chairman.

6. **Urgent Business**

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

7. **Counter Fraud Work Programme 2024/25** (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report presents the programme of counter work to be undertaken in 2024/25, and asks the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee note this programme.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note and approve the 2024/25 counter fraud work programme.

8. **Risk Monitoring Report End of Year 2023 - 2024** (Pages 21 - 42)

Report of Assistant Director Customer Focus

Purpose of report

To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks, as part of our duty to remain compliant, and to be able to identify any improvements required. This report presents the risk monitoring report for the end of the financial year 2023-2024.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring Report for end of year 2023-24.
- 1.2 To review the Council's current Risk Management Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 2) and provide comments and/or suggestions to be incorporated in the Risk Management Policy 2024/25 for Executive consideration.

9. **Draft Statement of Accounts 2023-2024** (Pages 43 - 208)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide an opportunity for review of the draft 2023/24 Statement of Accounts which were published on the council's website on 31 May 2024.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the report and publication of the draft statement of accounts 2023/24 (Appendix 1).

10. Treasury Management Report - Q1 2024/25 (June 2023) (Pages 209 - 218)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2024-25 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

To demonstrate that all treasury management activities undertaken during the first quarter of 2024-25 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.

11. Support to Subsidiaries (Pages 219 - 222)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the overall level of support provided to the council's subsidiaries and how this is considered as part of the external audit.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the report and raise any queries on the exempt appendix.

12. Exclusion of Press and Public

The following item contains exempt information as defined in the following paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Members are reminded that whilst the following item has been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider it in private or in public. In

making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.

Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to resolve as follows:

“That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

13. Support to Subsidiaries - Exempt Appendix (Pages 223 - 228)

14. Readmittance of the Press and Public

The Committee is recommended to resolve to readmit the press and public to the meeting.

15. Work Programme (Pages 229 - 230)

To consider and review the Work Programme.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room 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.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

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Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Webcasting and Broadcasting Notice

The meeting will be recorded by the council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the council's website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except when confidential or exempt items are being considered. The webcast will be retained on the website for 6 months.

If you make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed by the council to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or joining virtually, you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

The council is obliged, by law, to allow members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record, and report on proceedings. The council will only seek to prevent this should it be undertaken in a disruptive or otherwise inappropriate manner.

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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