



Committee: Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: Wednesday 25 September 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 5 - 10)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 July 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. Risk Monitoring Report - Q1 2024-2025 (Pages 11 - 24)

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 Quarter 1 2024-25.

8. External Audit Update 2022-2023 (Pages 25 - 42)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To update the committee on developments in relation to the proposed audit backstop in relation to the 2022/23 statement of accounts, note the draft Letter of Representation, and to seek delegated authority to finalise the accounts with the auditors by the backstop date for 2022/23's accounts.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the updated dates proposed by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the audit backstop and the impact of this proposal on the external audit of the council's financial statements.
- 1.2 To note the draft Letter of Representation for 2022/23 (Appendix 3)
- 1.3 To agree that, once the final audit opinion for 2022/23 is received, the Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), be authorised to make any further changes to the accounts agreed with the auditors and sign the accounts. Any further changes will be brought to the Committee's attention at its next meeting following the signing.
- 1.4 To agree that the Assistant Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), be authorised to make any further changes to the letter of representation agreed with the auditors that may arise during completion of the audit. Any further changes will be brought to the Committee's attention at its next meeting following the signing.

9. External Audit Update 2023-2024

Verbal update from the Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer).

10. Monitoring Officer Report including LGSCO Ombudsman Annual Report (Pages 43 - 56)

Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee an annual report on matters relating to standards and conduct of Members within the Cherwell District at District and Parish level, complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman and other matters for the municipal year of 2023/2024.

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the content of the report, which will also be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils in the district for information.

11. Work Programme (Pages 57 - 58)

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.

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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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