

...Decisions... Decisions...

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

If you have a query please contact Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Tel 07393 001096; E-mail: colm.ocaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk ()

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA	DECISIONS	ACTION
1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments	There were no apologies.	DLG (A Newman)
2. Declaration of Interests - see guidance note	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 and to receive information arising from them.	The minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2019 were approved and signed.	DLG (C. Ó Caomhánaigh)
4. Petitions and Public Address	None	
5. Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor 2018/19 Report from the Chief Internal Auditor. This is the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor, summarising the outcome of the Internal Audit work in 2018/19, and providing an opinion on the Council's System of Internal Control. The opinion is one of the sources of assurance for the Annual Governance Statement. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and endorse this annual report.	Recommendation agreed.	DF (S Cox)

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>6. Internal Audit Strategy & Annual Plan 2019/20</p> <p>Report from the Director for Finance.</p> <p>This report presents the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20.</p> <p>The committee is RECOMMENDED to comment on and note the Internal Audit Strategy for 2019/20 and 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DF (S Cox)</p>
<p>7. Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report to Council 2018</p> <p>Report by the Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee to be presented to The Council.</p> <p>The Annual Report sets out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarises the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider the Annual Report and suggest any additions or amendments.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>(N Carter)</p>
<p>8. Report from Audit Working Group</p> <p>Report from the Director for Finance.</p> <p>This report presents the matters considered by the Audit Working Group Meeting of 24 April 2019.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DF (S Cox)</p>
<p>9. External Auditors</p> <p>Representatives from the external auditors Ernst & Young will attend to give a verbal</p>		

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update.		
<p>10. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council Partnership - Review of Governance Arrangements</p> <p>Report from the Director for Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with a review of the governance arrangements of the partnership working between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council.</p> <p>The Committee will be well aware that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Cherwell District Council (CDC) entered into a partnership agreement at the beginning of September 2018. The Committee approved the terms of the partnership agreement (also known as the Section 113 Agreement) together with the approval of a number of other documents that related to the governance of the relationship between the two Councils. These included the Chief Executive Protocol, the Ethical Walls Protocol, the Role of Councillors Arrangements and the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee.</p> <p>On the 12 September 2018, the Audit & Governance Committee sought further clarification on the role and purpose of the Joint Committee and the terms of reference which were considered and approved further on the 14 November 2018.</p> <p>At the inaugural meeting of the Partnership Working Group – the advisory committee set up to manage joint working between the two Councils – it was acknowledged that a review of the governance should be</p>		

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<p>undertaken to ensure that effective and efficient arrangements were in place to underpin the development of the joint agreement.</p> <p>This report seeks to review those governance arrangements for endorsement by the Audit & Governance Committee and ratification by the Partnership Working Group and the respective Executive and Cabinet of the partner authorities.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to endorse the review of the partnership governance outlined in this report.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DLG (N Graham)</p>
<p>11. Annual Governance Statement 2019-20</p> <p>Report by Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>The Audit & Governance Committee has the responsibility of approving the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) each year.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to prepare an AGS to be transparent about their compliance with good governance principles. This includes reporting on how they have monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the previous year and setting out any planned changes in the coming period.</p> <p>This report presents the draft Annual Governance Statement to the Committee for consideration and approval</p> <p>The Audit & Governance Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19, subject to the Director of Law and Governance making any necessary amendments in</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DLG (G Watson)</p>

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<p>the light of comments made by the Committee, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Section 151 officer.</p>		
<p>12. Report from Transformation Subcommittee</p> <p>Report from the Deputy Chairman of the Transformation Sub-committee.</p> <p>The second meeting of the Joint Audit & Governance and Performance Scrutiny (Transformation) Sub-Committee took place on 18 April 2019. The Sub-Committee considered a quarterly performance report covering January – March 2019 and a presentation about the interface between the Cherwell Partnership and the Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>ACE (L Rushen)</p>
<p>13. Annual Scrutiny Report</p> <p>Report by Policy and Performance Service Manager</p> <p>The Scrutiny Annual report provides a summary of the work of the Council's overview and scrutiny function in 2018-19. This function includes the council's three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and any joint scrutiny arrangements. The report will be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee and the Performance Scrutiny Committee prior to Council.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to comment on the report prior to its presentation to Council for approval.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>ACE (B Threadgold)</p>
<p>14. LUNCH BREAK</p>		

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<p>15.Accounting Policies for Preparation of the Statement of Accounts and the Approach to the Narrative Statement</p> <p>Report from the Director for Finance</p> <p>As the body identified as 'Those Charged with Governance' within the Council, The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for signing the Statement of Accounts at the meeting of the committee in July.</p> <p>This report sets out the Council's Significant Accounting Policies for 2018/19, as selected and approved by the Director of Finance. The CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom defines Accounting Policies as 'the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an authority in preparing and presenting financial statements'. The accounting policies describe how the Council has interpreted and applied the code and form the basis of the preparation of the accounts.</p> <p>The report also sets out the approach to the Narrative Report for inclusion in the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts, including the content of the Narrative Report and the approval process before the draft Statement of Accounts is published for Public Inspection on 31 May 2019.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) note the report;</p> <p>b) ratify the accounting policies as approved by the Chief Finance Officer and included as an appendix to this report; and</p> <p>c) note the content and timetable</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DF (H Doney)</p>

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for the 2018/19 narrative report.		
<p>16. Governance of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Presentation from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.</p>		
<p>17. Highways Update</p> <p>Report from the Director for Community Operations.</p> <p>Further to the report to the meeting on November 2019, this paper provides feedback on the progress of addressing issues raised and the results of the subsequent audit inspection.</p> <p>The Audit and Governance Committee is RECOMMENDED to note progress to date.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DCO (R Harwood)</p>
<p>18. Oxfordshire Fire And Rescue Service Statement Of Assurance 2018/19</p> <p>Report by the Chief Fire Officer</p> <p>The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework) sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual statement of assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and to show how they have due regard to the requirements of the Framework and the expectations set out in authorities' own integrated risk management plans.</p> <p>To demonstrate this, the Framework requires that each authority must publish an annual statement of assurance. The Statement of Assurance 2018/19 document is intended to meet the obligation to produce this statement through reference to public webpages,</p>		

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<p>existing reports and documents.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the report.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DCS (P Bremble)</p>
<p>19. Carillion Recovery Plan Update</p> <p>This will be a verbal update on progress.</p>		
<p>20. EXEMPT ITEM</p> <p>In the event that any Member or Officer wishes to discuss the information in the report to Item 21, the Committee will be invited to resolve to exclude the public for the consideration of that report by passing a resolution in relation to that item in the following terms:</p> <p><i>"that the public be excluded during the consideration of the report since it is likely that if they were present during that discussion there would be a disclosure of "exempt" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below the item in the Agenda".</i></p> <p>THE REPORT TO THE ITEM NAMED HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS 'CONFIDENTIAL' BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THEM.</p> <p>THIS IS FOR REASONS OF COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY.</p> <p>THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE CONTENTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHERS AND NO COPIES SHOULD BE MADE.</p>		
<p>21. Carillion Legacy Programme - Negotiation Activity</p>		

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<p>Report by the Director of Community Operations.</p> <p><i>The information contained in the report is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed categories:</i></p> <p>3. <i>Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);</i></p> <p>5. <i>Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.</i></p> <p><i>and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that the disclosure could affect the negotiations with the liquidators of Carillion.</i></p> <p>This report provides a requested update on the negotiation with the Liquidators for Carillion, over their claim against OCC, our counter claim, and related matters.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the report.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DCS (A Fairweather)</p>
<p>22. Work Programme</p> <p>To review the Committee's Work Programme.</p>	<p>It was agreed to add the following items to the work programme:</p> <p>11 September: add Oxford Direct Services audit</p> <p>13 November: add Highways Update</p>	