

...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 Lucy Tyrrell, Tel 07741 607824; E-mail: lucy.tyrrell@oxfordshire.gov.uk ()

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments	Cllr Jeanette Matelot advised she will continue to attend the Committee on a temporary basis.	DLG (A. Newman)
2. Declaration of Interests	None.	
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2020 and to receive information arising from them.	The minutes of 22 July 2020 were agreed.	DLG (L. Tyrrell)
4. Petitions and Public Address	None.	
5. Surveillance Commissioner's Inspection and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Report by the Interim Monitoring Officer and Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets and Investment The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('the Act') regulates the use of covert activities by Local Authorities. It creates the statutory framework by which covert surveillance activities may be lawfully undertaken. Special authorisation arrangements need to be put in place whenever a Local Authority considers commencing covert surveillance or considers obtaining information by the use of informants or officers acting in an undercover capacity. Codes of Practice issued under the Act		

...Decisions... Decisions...

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>provide guidance to authorities on the use of the Act. The Code of Practice relating to covert surveillance specifies that elected members should review the authority's use of the Act and set the policy at least once a year. They should also consider internal reports on the use of the Act periodically.</p> <p>This paper provides an overview of the use of activities falling within the scope of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by Oxfordshire County Council in the period from April 2019 to March 2020. The report also provides an overview of the authority's Policy and the full policy is provided as an annex for committee members to review.</p> <p>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>a) Consider and note the use of activities within the scope of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act by the Council, and</p> <p>b) Note the Policy document at Annex 1 and to comment on any changes to the Policy for Compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 that the committee would wish the Monitoring Officer to consider.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DLG (R. Webb)</p>
<p>6. Local Government Ombudsman's Review of Oxfordshire Council</p> <p>Report by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Each year, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) issues an Annual Review Report about each council. This relates to the complaints made to the LGSCO about the Council in the previous financial year. This report updates the Committee on this area of governance for the year 2019/20.</p> <p>While there were fewer complaints made</p>		

...Decisions... Decisions...

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>to the LGSCO about this Council in 2019/20, the rate of cases upheld has increased on last year: 16 upheld instead of 9. This is an uphold rate of 76% of cases considered by the Ombudsman, compared to a national average of 66%.</p> <p>On the positive side, 97% of the Council's complaints were resolved within our own procedures. In 13% of the cases upheld by the LGSCO, the Ombudsman found that the Council had already provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached him. This compares to only 9% in similar authorities. The Ombudsman was pleased to note that in all cases, the Council had successfully implemented all the Ombudsman's recommendations.</p> <p>This report explores these findings in more detail and sets them in the national context for county councils.</p> <p><i>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note and comment on this report and on the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review of Oxfordshire County Council for 2019/20</i></p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DLG (G. Watson)</p>
<p>7. Monitoring Officer Annual Report</p> <p>Report by Monitoring Officer</p> <p>The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for promoting standards of conduct for elected councillors and co-opted members and for ensuring the integrity of the democratic decision-making process. Consequently, the Monitoring Officer reports annually to this Committee on relevant actions and issues that have occurred in the previous year. This report therefore summarises certain activities for the year 2019/20.</p> <p><i>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and endorse the report.</i></p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DLG (G. Watson)</p>

...Decisions... Decisions...

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>8. Counter-fraud Plan 2020/21</p> <p>Report by the Director of Finance</p> <p>This report presents the Counter Fraud Strategy and Plan for 2020/21 and a review of activity from 2019/20.</p> <p><i>The committee is RECOMMENDED to:</i></p> <p><i>a) Note the summary of activity from 2019/20</i></p> <p><i>b) Comment and note the Counter Fraud Strategy and Plan for 2020/21</i></p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DF (I. Dyson)</p>
<p>9. Internal Audit Plan - Progress Report</p> <p>Report by Director of Finance</p> <p>This report presents the Internal Audit progress report for 2020/21.</p> <p><i>The committee is RECOMMENDED to note the progress with the 20/21 Internal Audit Plan and the outcome of the completed audits.</i></p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DF (S. Cox)</p>
<p>10. Ernst & Young - 2019/20 Annual Audit Letter</p> <p>Representatives from Ernst & Young will attend to present a verbal report.</p>	<p>Report noted.</p>	
<p>11. Audit Working Group Report</p> <p>Report by the Director for Finance.</p> <p>This report presents the matters considered by the Audit Working Group meeting of 9 September 2020.</p> <p><i>The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</i></p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DF (S. Cox)</p>
<p>12. Carillion Update</p> <p>Report by Director for Property, Investment</p>		

...Decisions... Decisions...

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>and Facilities Management</p> <p>To update A&G on the latest position and the agreed final settlement sum on all claims for this item.</p>		
<p>13. Work Programme</p> <p>To review the Committee's work programme.</p>	<p>The following changes were agreed: 11 November – add Carillion update 13 January – add Cyber Security</p>	