



To: **Members of the Audit & Governance Committee**

***Notice of a Meeting of the Audit & Governance
Committee***

**Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 2.00 pm
Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA**

Please note that Council meetings are currently taking place in-person (not virtually) with social distancing at the venue. Meetings will continue to be live-streamed and those who wish to view them are strongly encouraged to do so online to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#). However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Places at the meetings are very limited due to the requirements of social distancing. If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am four working days before the meeting and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the detailed Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees.

Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

July 2021

*Committee Officers: Lucy Tyrrell, Tel 07741 607834; E-mail:
lucy.tyrrell@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

Membership

Chair – Councillor Roz Smith
Deputy Chair – Brad Baines

Councillors

Donna Ford
Nick Leverton

Dan Levy
Ian Middleton
Jane Murphy

Michael O'Connor
Judy Roberts

Co-optee
Dr Geoff Jones

Notes:

- ***There will be a pre-meeting held virtually on Monday 19 July 2021 at 10.00 a.m. for the Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesman.***
- ***Date of next meeting: 15 September 2021***

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on **07776 997946** or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declaration of Interests - see guidance note**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2021 and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Petitions and Public Address**

Currently council meetings are taking place in-person (not virtually) with social distancing operating in the venues. However, members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting 'virtually' through an online connection. Places at the meeting are very limited due to the requirements of social distancing. While you can ask to attend the meeting in person, you are strongly encouraged to attend 'virtually' to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

Please also note that in line with current government guidance all attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

*Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9 am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. **9 am on Wednesday 14 July 2021.** Requests to speak should be sent to lucy.tyrrell@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You will be contacted by the officer regarding the arrangements for speaking.*

If you ask to attend in person, the officer will also advise you regarding Covid-19 safety at the meeting. If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

5. **Statement of Accounts 2020/21** (Pages 9 - 26)

2.10 p.m.

Report by the Director of Finance.

This report sets out the latest position on the preparation and audit of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts including:

- Authorisation of the Draft Accounts and Period of Public Inspection
- Progress on the external audit
- Agreed amendments to the draft Statement of Accounts
- Conclusion of the audit

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

- (a) Consider and approve the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 at Annex 1;***
- (b) Consider and approve the Letter of Representations 2020/21 for the Oxfordshire County Council accounts at Annex 2;***
- (c) Consider and approve the Letter of Representations 2020/21 for the Oxfordshire Pension Fund accounts at Annex 3;***
- (d) Agree that the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), can make any further changes to the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 and letters of representation that may arise during completion of the audit.***

Please note that Annex 1 – Statement of Accounts 2020/21 will follow as a separate addendum.

6. External Auditors - Final Accounts (Pages 27 - 80)

2.40 p.m.

Representatives from the external auditors, Ernst & Young, will attend to present the following report:

- Oxfordshire County Council Draft Audit results report Year ended 31 March 2021 - 9 July 2021

7. Internal Audit Charter (Pages 81 - 96)

3.00 p.m.

Report by the Director of Finance.

This report presents the Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Quality Assurance Programme for 2021/22. These are subject to annual review.

The committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) Approve the Internal Audit Charter.***
- b) Note the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.***

8. Counter Fraud Plan (Pages 97 - 120)

3.20 p.m.

Report by the Director of Finance

This report presents the Counter Fraud Plan for 2021/22 and a review of activity from 2020/21. The updated Counter Fraud Strategy is included to note in Appendix 3.

The committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) ***Note the summary of activity from 2020/21 in Appendix 1***
- b) ***Note the updated Counter Fraud Strategy and Performance Framework in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3***
- c) ***Comment and note the Counter Fraud Plan for 2021/22***

9. Audit Working Group Report (Pages 121 - 124)

3.40 p.m.

Report by the Director of Finance.

This report presents the matters considered by the Audit Working Group Meeting of 23 June 2021.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

10. Audit & Governance Committee Work Programme 2021/22 (Pages 125 - 126)

3.50 p.m.

To review the Committee's work programme.

Close of meeting

An explanation of abbreviations and acronyms is available on request from the Chief Internal Auditor.
