

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Tel: 01993 861522
e-mail - democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk

AUDIT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Audit and General Purposes Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney on **Thursday, 24 June 2021 at 6.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Audit and General Purposes Committee

Councillor Alex Postan (Chairman), Councillor Dan Levy (Vice Chairman), Councillor Jake Acock, Councillor Joy Aitman, Councillor Luci Ashbourne, Councillor Andrew Beaney, Councillor Julian Cooper, Councillor Rupert Dent, Councillor Colin Dingwall, Councillor Harry Eaglestone, Councillor Duncan Enright, Councillor Gill Hill, Councillor Richard Langridge, Councillor Martin McBride, Councillor Elizabeth Poskitt, Councillor Harry St John and Councillor Alex Wilson.

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 10)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2021.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive any apologies for absence or temporary appointments.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations from Members of the Committee on any items to be considered at the meeting
4. **Participation of the Public**
To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.
5. **Chairman's Welcome**
To receive a welcome and introductions from the Chairman, Councillor Postan.
6. **External Auditor 2020/21 Audit Plan** (Pages 11 - 36)
Purpose:
To receive a report from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors regarding the audit plan for 2020/21.
Recommendation:
That the Audit and General Purposes Committee considers the Grant Thornton Audit Plan for 2020/21.
7. **Internal Audit Opinion 2020/21** (Pages 37 - 68)
Purpose
To present a summary of the work undertaken by Internal Audit during 2020/21 and to give an overall opinion on levels of assurance resulting from this work.

Due to the information contained in The Internal Audit Annual Opinion, it was deemed unnecessary to submit a separate quarterly monitoring report. Instead, we have produced a condensed version of the usual report which contains a summary of the work concluded since the last meeting of this Committee.

Recommendation
That the Committee considers the report and comments, as necessary.
8. **Counter Fraud Unit Report and Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Policy** (Pages 69 - 82)
Purpose
To provide the Committee with assurance over the counter fraud activities of the Council. Direct updates will continue to be provided biannually.
Work plans are presented to the Committee detailing progress and results for consideration and comment as the body charged with governance in this area.
The report outlines the annual update in relation to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) and the Council's

existing authorisation arrangements.

The report also provides the Committee with an updated Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Policy, which sets out the Council's legislative obligations, for approval and adoption.

Recommendation

1. That the Committee notes the report and work plan at Annex A.
2. That the Committee approves and adopts the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Policy at Annex B.
3. That the Committee authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (Chief Finance Officer) to approve future minor amendments to the Policy in consultation with Finance, Legal Services and the Counter Fraud Unit.

9. **KPMG LLP Reports - Housing Benefit Subsidy Certification** (Pages 83 - 86)

Purpose:

For the Committee to note the outcome of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant Certification audit for 2019/2020.

Recommendation:

To note the outcome of the housing benefit subsidy certification work.

10. **Corporate Risk Register Updates** (Pages 87 - 98)

Purpose

To update the Committee on the changes to the Council's corporate risk register at the end of Quarter Three of 2020/21.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

11. **Member Questions**

Purpose

To receive questions from members relating to the work of the Audit and General Purposes Committee. In order to ensure that appropriate information is to hand at the meeting, Members may wish to give notice of any questions through the Committee Officer.

Recommendation

That Members' questions be dealt with as appropriate.

(END)