



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Audit Committee will be held at CDC Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 4.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Audit Committee
(Councillors Tony Berry, Patrick Coleman, Nick Maunder, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tom Stowe and Ray Theodoulou)

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.

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

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Substitute Members**
To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
4. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 29th September 2022
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions or supplementary questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate issues under the Committee's remit.
6. **Member Questions**
To deal with written questions by Members, relating to issues under the Committee's remit, with the maximum length of oral supplementary questions at Committee being no longer than one minute. Responses to any supplementary questions will be dealt with in writing if they cannot be dealt with at the meeting.
7. **2021/22 Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion- Update (Pages 13 - 20)**
Purpose
The purpose of this report is to inform Members of audit progress for the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 and provision of the audit opinion. The Committee is advised that the deadline for issuing a final set of audited Statements of Accounts and Audit Opinion of 30 November 2022 was not met.

Recommendations
That the Audit Committee:
 - i) Note the Statement of Accounts Update Report
 - ii) Note the indicative timetable for approval of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and receiving the Audit opinion.
 - iii) Note the outcome from the PSAA tender exercise and the appointment of Bishop Fleming for a 5-year period commencing for the 2023/24 audit year
8. **Annual Ombudsman Report (Pages 21 - 34)**
Purpose
This report informs Audit Committee about the annual Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman's (LGO's) letter 2022

Recommendation
That the Committee note the Ombudsman's letter

9. **Elected Member Code of Conduct (Pages 35 - 72)**

Purpose

This report sets out the proposed Member Code of Conduct.

Recommendation

That the Audit Committee recommends the Draft Gloucestershire wide Code of Members' Conduct (as annexed to this report) for onward approval by Full Council.

10. **Feedback from the Peer Review- Governance Arrangements (Pages 73 - 84)**

Purpose

To consider the Local Government Association's Feedback Report, and, to review the Action Plan that details how the recommendations relating to the responsibilities of this Committee will be implemented.

Recommendation

That Audit Committee:

Note the Committee's activity over the last year and identify any gaps in the governance framework.

11. **Internal Audit Progress Report (Pages 85 - 106)**

Purpose

To present a summary of the audit work concluded since the last meeting of this Committee.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the reports at Annexes A and B and comments as necessary

12. **Treasury Management Half Year Report 2022-23 (Pages 107 - 120)**

Purpose

To receive and discuss details of the Council's Treasury Management performance for the period 01 April to 30 September 2022.

Recommendation

That the Council's Treasury Management performance for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 is considered and is forwarded to Council to note.

13. **Annual Capital Strategy 2023/24 (Pages 121 - 138)**

Purpose

The Council is required to approve a Capital Strategy for 2023/24 before 01 April 2023. The Capital Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 1) is in accordance with CIPFA's "Prudential Code" and the "Treasury Management Code of Practice" 2021, and the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance on Local Government Investments

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the draft Capital Strategy for 2023/24 and provides feedback to the Cabinet and Council for consideration as part of the Council's budget setting process.

14. **Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2023-24** (Pages 139 - 174)

Purpose

The Council is required to approve a Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy) for 2022/23 before 01 April 2023.

The attached Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23 (Appendix 1) and Non-Treasury Investment Strategy (Appendix 2) is prepared in accordance with the “Prudential Code” and the “Treasury Management Code of Practice” (2021 Editions), and the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) revised guidance on Local Government Investments

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the draft Treasury Management and Non Treasury Investment Strategy for 2023/24 and provides feedback to the Cabinet and Council for consideration as part of the Council’s budget setting process.

15. **Work Plan** (Pages 175 - 178)

Purpose

To review the work plan for the 2023 calendar year.

(END)