Minutes of the Finance Committee

A meeting of the **Finance Committee** was held on **Tuesday 16th June 2026** at **19:00 hrs** at the **Council Chamber, The Garth, Launton Road, OX26 6PS**.

Present:
Cllr Paul Wheatley (Chair of this meeting)
Cllr John Willett (Substitute)
Cllr Rachel Mallows
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Donna Ford
Cllr Sam Holland
Cllr Jim Webb

In Attendance:
Trevor Longfield - Responsible Finance Officer
Viktorija Kovale - Finance Administrator

01/2627 **Appointment of Vice-Chair**
RESOLVED that the Committee **DEFFERED** the appointment until the next Finance Committee meeting.

02/2627 **Apologies for Absence**
RESOLVED that apologies be received from:

- Cllr Alisa Russell (Chair)
- Cllr Tom Beckett

03/2627 **Declarations of Interest**
RESOLVED that the following declarations of interest were received:

- Cllr Les Sibley - Cherwell District Council Councillor
- Cllr John Willet - Cherwell District Council Councillor

04/2627 **Minutes of the Finance Committee**
RESOLVED to **CONFIRM** the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on:

- **FIN06/2526** held on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 19:00hrs.

05/2627 **Public Session**
RESOLVED that no members of the public were present.

06/2627 **Internal Audit Report**
RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the Report.

Members commented that an action plan should be developed and published. It was further agreed that the action plan must be completed by 30 June 2026.

Signed:.................................... Date: 01/07/2026

07/ 2627 **Annual Governance and Accounting Return**
RESOLVED that the Committee **APPROVED** the report for submission to the next meeting of Full Council on 22 June 2026.

All in favour.

08/ 2627 **Year-End Financial Accounts**
RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the report.

A question was raised regarding the 2025/26 grant from the Football Association, which had not been submitted or received. Councillors requested that the situation be investigated, with legal advice sought if necessary, including whether a retrospective application may still be possible.
It was agreed that an action plan be prepared for the next Finance Committee meeting on 1 July 2026.

A further question was raised regarding the movement of funds between Earmarked Reserves (EMR) and expenditure from those reserves. Councillors commented that EMR funding should be used for capital items only, and not for day-to-day expenditure.

19:24 Cllr Sam Holland arrived.

09/ 2627 **Earmarked Reserves**
RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the report and **DEFERRED** approval until the next Finance Committee meeting.

Councillors requested that a more detailed Earmarked Reserves (EMR) report be presented at the next Finance Committee meeting.
Councillors commented that all movements into and between EMRs must be discussed with and approved by the Finance Committee.

10/ 2627 **Internal Auditor Appointment**
RESOLVED that the Committee **APPROVED** the engagement for one year.

The Committee noted that a new Internal Auditor should be appointed for the 2027/28 financial year, as the current auditor has been in place for several years. It was agreed that information on alternative audit providers be presented in January/February 2027, with a view to approval in advance of the next financial year.

11/ 2627 **Renewal of Contracts**
RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the report.

Councillors commented that all provider contracts must be discussed and approved at a Finance Committee meeting.

Signed: ……………………………… Date: 01/07/2026 ………………

As some contracts had already been renewed without prior approval, Councillors requested that copies of all contracts be circulated to them for review and further comment.

As part of this item, Councillors also requested that a Forward Plan be included on future Finance Committee agendas.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 19:00

CLOSE OF MEETING: 19:49hrs

Signed..

Date: 01/07/2026