



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and  
Commissioning**

**Samantha Lawton**

Governance and Commissioning

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## Decision Summary

**Committee:**  
**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Date:**

**Committee Clerk:**

**TEL:**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND**

**FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2025**

**Nicola Sylvester**

**01484 221000**

### **Chair**

Councillor John Taylor

### **Councillors Attended**

Councillor James Homewood

Councillor Angela Sewell

Councillor Caroline Holt

Councillor Kath Pinnock

Councillor Imran Safdar

### **Attendees**

Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Corporate Strategy,

Samantha Lawton, Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)

Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance

Leigh Webb, Head of Governance

James Anderson, Head of Accountancy

Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk and Internal Audit

Simon Straker, Audit Manager (Virtual)

Rachel Firth, Finance Manager (Virtual)

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton

Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton

### **Co-optees**

Chris Jones

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Councillor Tyler Hawkins, Cabinet Member - Corporate

Councillor Graham Turner, Cabinet Member - Finance

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December be approved as a correct record.

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## **7 Dates of Council Meetings - 2025/26 Municipal Year (Reference to Council)**

To consider the dates and times for meetings of Council for the 2025/26 municipal year.

Contact: Leigh Webb, Head of Governance.

**RESOLVED-** That the Dates of Council Meetings – 2025-26 Municipal Year report be noted with the request of a report setting out potential dates reflected in the discussion be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

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## **8 Report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel**

To receive the report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel.

Contact: Leigh Webb, Head of Governance.

**RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel be noted.
- 2) That the Committee recommends that Council approve the recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel MAIRP (as set out in Appendix A of the report).

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## **9 Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2025/26**

To receive the Treasury Management Strategy and consider the Investment Strategy 2025/26.

Contact: Rachel Firth, Finance Manager.

**RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 incorporating (i) the borrowing strategy, (ii) the investment strategy, (iii) the policy for provision of repayment of debt (Minimum Revenue Provision) (iv) the treasury management prudential indicators and (v) the investment strategy (non-treasury investments) be recommended for consideration by Cabinet and then approval by Council.
  - 2) That an explanatory paper on Minimum Revenue Provision including different methodologies be submitted to a future Committee meeting.
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**10 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

To consider the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.

Contact: Simon Straker, Audit Manager.

**RESOLVED-** That the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

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**11 Audit Findings Report 2023/24**

To consider the Audit Findings report 2023/24.

Contact: Grant Thornton, External Auditor.

**RESOLVED –** That the Audit Findings Report 2023/24 be noted.

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**12 Approval of the Council's final accounts for 2023/24**

To consider the Council's final accounts for 2023/24.

Contact: James Anderson, Head of Accountancy.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 incorporating the Annual Governance Statement be approved.
  - 2) That the draft letter of Representation (Appendix C), with the Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to sign the final version on behalf of the Committee upon completion of the audit be approved.
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**13 Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24**

To receive the Auditors Annual Report 2023/24.

Contact: Grant Thornton, External Auditor.

**RESOLVED-** That the Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24 be noted.

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**14 Agenda Plan**

To review the 2024/25 Agenda Plan.

**RESOLVED-** That the Agenda Plan for 2024/25 be noted.

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