



Notice of Meeting of

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28 March 2024 at 10.00 am

**John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere
Road, Taunton TA1 1HE**

To: The members of the Audit Committee

Chair: Councillor Mike Hewitson

Vice-chair: Councillor Andy Sully

Councillor Steve Ashton

Councillor Simon Carswell

Councillor Norman Cavill

Councillor Simon Coles

Councillor Habib Farbahi

Lindy Jansen van Vuuren

Councillor Lee Baker

Councillor Mike Caswell

Councillor Mandy Chilcott

Councillor Shane Collins

Councillor Tim Kerley

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk.

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday, 22 March 2024**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Wednesday, 20 March 2024

AGENDA

Audit Committee - 10.00 am Thursday, 28 March 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 7 - 8)

Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 9 - 10)

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Minutes from the Audit Committee 25 January 2024 Meeting (Pages 11 - 30)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#))

4 Public Question Time

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

5 External Audit Findings Report and Audit Conclusion for Sedgemoor District Council 2022/23 (Pages 31 - 86)

To consider the report.

To follow:

Appendix 1 - Legacy Sedgemoor District Council's Statement of Accounts 2022-23

6 External Audit Findings Report and Audit Conclusion for South Somerset District Council 2022/23

Report and Appendices to be published 25 March 2024.

7 Somerset Pension Fund Audit Plan for year ending 31 March 2024 (Pages 87 - 112)

To consider the report.

8 Internal Audit Progress Report for Somerset Council 2023/24 (Pages 113 - 132)

To consider the report.

9 Internal Audit Plan and Charter 2024-25 (Pages 133 - 154)

To consider the report.

10 Strategic Risk Report for Somerset Council (Pages 155 - 176)

To consider the report.

11 Balance Sheet Update (Pages 177 - 226)

To consider the report.

12 CIPFA FM Code (Pages 227 - 288)

To consider the report.

13 Fraud Prevention in Somerset Council (Pages 289 - 332)

To consider the report.

Exclusion of Press and Public

PLEASE NOTE: Although the main report for this item is not confidential, supporting appendices available to Members contain exempt information and are therefore marked confidential – not for publication. At any point if Members wish to discuss information within this appendix then the Council will be asked to agree the following resolution to exclude the press and public:

Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14 Audit Committee Workplan (Pages 333 - 336)

To consider the Audit Committee Workplan.