



Notice of Meeting of

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 August 2024 at 10.00 am

**Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cannards
Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT**

To: The members of the Audit Committee

Chair: Councillor Mike Hewitson

Vice-chair: Councillor Andy Sully

Councillor Lee Baker

Councillor Mike Caswell

Councillor Mandy Chilcott

Councillor Habib Farbahi

Councillor Rosemary Woods

Councillor Steve Ashton

Councillor Simon Carswell

Councillor Norman Cavill

Councillor Simon Coles

Councillor Tim Kerley

Councillor Gwil Wren

Lindy Jansen van Vuuren

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact democraticservicesteam@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: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Thursday, 22 August 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 Tuesday, 20 August 2024

AGENDA

Audit Committee - 10.00 am Thursday, 29 August 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 Previous Meeting (Pages 11 - 24)

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 Report and Sector Update Covering Somerset Council 2023-24 and South Somerset DC 2022-23 (Pages 25 - 46)

To consider the report.

6 Strategic Risk Report (Pages 47 - 58)

To consider the report.

7 Progress Report on the Recommendations of the Interim Auditor's Annual Report 2022-23 (Pages 59 - 68)

To consider the report.

8 Improvement and Transformation Programme Risk Management Update (Pages 69 - 86)

To consider the report.

9 Internal Audit Annual Opinion Report 2023-24 (Pages 87 - 110)

To consider the report.

10 Internal Audit Plan Progress Report 2024-25 (Pages 111 - 142)

To consider the report.

11 Somerset Council Going Concern Assessment (Pages 143 - 168)

To consider the report.

12 Annual Governance Statement 2023-24 (Pages 169 - 278)

To consider the report.

13 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 Somerset Council 2023-24 IT Audit Report (Pages 279 - 320)

To consider the report.

15 Audit Committee Workplan (Pages 321 - 324)

To consider the report.