



Notice of Meeting of

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 29 June 2023 at 10.00 am**

### **Luttrell Room - County Hall**

To: The members of the Audit Committee

Chair: Councillor Mike Hewitson

Vice-chair: Councillor Andy Sully

Councillor Steve Ashton

Councillor Lee Baker

Councillor Simon Carswell

Councillor Mike Caswell

Councillor Norman Cavill

Councillor Mandy Chilcott

Councillor Simon Coles

Councillor Shane Collins

Councillor Habib Farbahi

Councillor Tim Kerley

Jennifer Whitten

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Friday, 23 June 2023**.

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 David Clark on Wednesday, 21 June 2023

# **AGENDA**

**Audit Committee - 10.00 am Thursday, 29 June 2023**

**Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe** 7 - 8

**Click here to join the online meeting** 9 - 10

**For those of you wishing to join online click here to join the meeting**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of Interest (Pages 11 - 12)**

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

(The personal interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

**3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 13 - 20)**

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

#### **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 Report of Somerset West and Taunton Audit Plan 2022/23 (Pages 21 - 46)**

Progress update from SWAP for 2022/23. It reports against the Internal Audit Plan agreed by the Somerset County Council (SCC) Audit Committee in March 2022.

#### **6 Internal Annual Audit Opinion Report 2022-2023 (Pages 47 - 66)**

Internal audit provides an independent and objective opinion on the Authority's risk management, governance, and control environment by evaluating its effectiveness.

#### **7 External Audit Plan Report for Somerset County Council 2022-2023 (Pages 67 - 116)**

An overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Somerset County Council for those charged with governance.

#### **8 External Audit Plan for Somerset Pension Fund - June 2022-2023 (Pages 117 - 140)**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Somerset Pension Fund for those charged with governance.

**9 Strategic Risk Review Report (Pages 141 - 170)**

The Account and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to have in place effective arrangements for the management of risk. These arrangements are reviewed annually and reported as part of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). There is a direct link to the Council's Plan and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

**10 Draft Annual Governance Statement (Pages 171 - 238)**

The Audit Committee has the responsibility for the approval of Statement of Accounts for the 5 predecessor councils including the Annual Governance Statements.

**11 Update on the Expected Completed Statements of Accounts**

Jason Vaughan is available to give a verbal update.

**12 Audit Committee Workplan 2023-2024 (Pages 239 - 240)**

A detailed document setting out the workplan items for the year ahead.