



Notice of Meeting of

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 25 January 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, 19 January 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, 17 January 2024

AGENDA

Audit Committee - 10.00 am Thursday, 25 January 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 Meetings: 26 October 2023 & 14 December 2023 (Pages 11 - 42)

To approve the minutes from the previous meetings:

26 October 2023

14 December 2023 (Extra ordinary 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 Strategic Risk Management Update as at January 2024 (Pages 43 - 82)

To consider the report.

6a Assurance Reports - Financial Emergency Governance (Pages 83 - 102)

To consider the report.

6b Assurance Reports - Balance Sheet Review (Pages 103 - 144)

To consider the report.

7 Somerset Joint Auditor's Annual Report (Pages 145 - 226)

To consider the report.

8 External Audit Findings Report for Mendip District Council 2022/23 (Pages 227 - 470)

To consider the report.

9 External Audit Findings Report for Somerset County Council 2022/23 (Pages 471 - 808)

To consider the report.

10 External Audit Plan for South Somerset District Council for 2022/23 (Pages 809 - 840)

To consider the report.

11 Internal Audit Progress Report for Somerset Council 2023/24 (Pages 841 - 866)

To consider the report.

12a Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Capital Strategy 2024/25

Report to follow.

12b Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Treasury Management Strategy (Pages 867 - 896) 2024/25

To consider the report.

12c Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Flexible use of Capital Receipts 2024/25 (Pages 897 - 900)

To consider the report.

13 Audit Committee Workplan (Pages 901 - 906)

To consider the Audit Committee Workplan.