

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Audit Committee on Thursday, 28 September 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Part A – Items considered in public		
A3	Minutes from the Previous Meeting	<p>The approval of the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Councillor Simon Coles and Seconded by Councillor Andy Sully.</p> <p>The committee RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 29 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.</p>
A5	External Audit Update for South Somerset District Council 2021-22	The Audit Committee noted the update report and the expected sign off date of 26 th October 2023 as well as the additional fees.
A6	External Update and Audit Conclusion for Sedgemoor District Council 2021-22	<p>The Audit Committee noted the Sedgemoor Statement of Accounts 2021-22.</p> <p>The Audit Committee noted the Audit Findings Report and additional fees.</p> <p>The Audit Committee noted the Sedgemoor District council Letter of Representation 2021-22 subject to the change of date which was an error on the letter.</p>
A7	External Audit Plan for Sedgemoor District Council 2022-23	The Audit Committee noted the external Audit Plan for Sedgemoor District Council for 2022/23.
A8	External Update for Somerset Pension Fund 2022-23	<p>The Audit Committee noted the Pension Fund Report.</p> <p>The Audit Committee noted the audited accounts of the Pension Fund for 2022-23.</p>

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		<p>The Audit Committee noted the letter of representation which would be formally signed along with the Somerset County Council letter of representation on the completion of the Somerset County Council audit.</p>
A9	<p>External Audit Update Report and Mendip District Council Statement of Accounts 2021-22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Simon Coles proposed the approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 which was seconded by Councillor Tim Kerley. <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Simon Coles proposed to agree the changes to the Annual Governance Statement for 2021 -22 which was seconded by Councillor Tim Kerley. <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council RESOLVED to agree the changes to the Annual Governance Statement for 2021 -22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Simon Coles proposed the consideration of the reports from the external Auditors Ernst &Young which was seconded by Councillor Andy Sully. <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council RESOLVED to agree of the reports from the external Auditors Ernst &Young.</p>
A10	<p>Internal Audit Plan Progress Report for Somerset Council 2023-24</p>	<p>The Audit Committee noted the position of the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan and the governance risk and control matters raised in the report since the previous update in June 2023.</p>

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A11	Strategic Risk Management Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Mandy Chilcott proposed that the Council reinstate the risk matrix on top of the report which was seconded by Councillor Norman Cavill. <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council RESOLVED to approve the reinstatement of the risk matrix at the top of all the reports and to get a progress update at each audit meeting about the roll out of that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair proposed that a referral be made to the Constitution and Governance Committee for them to consider the merit of introducing on the report template an assessment of the economic impact to business cases when deciding the success or failure of projects which was seconded by Mandy Chilcott. <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council RESOLVED that a referral be made to the Constitution and Governance Committee for them to consider the merit of introducing on the report template an assessment of the economic impact to business cases when deciding the success or failure of projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee noted the current strategic risk management report and the ongoing work to continue to develop the risk management function of the Council.
A12	Audit Committee Work Plan to May 2024	<p>The Audit Committee noted the Workplan and RESOLVED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ascertain whether additional meetings were going to be needed to avoid another voluminous agenda.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure that the workplan and agendas have the same headings on them.• To not include papers which do not need decisions on the agenda rather verbal updates be given.