

**Monday, 7th November, 2022,
6.15 pm**

**The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House**

**Members: Lee Baker (Chair), Ed Firmin, Simon Coles, Hugh Davies,
Tom Deakin, Dawn Johnson, Marcus Kravis, Andy Milne,
Steven Pugsley and Terry Venner**

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit and
Governance Committee**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the
Committee held on 12th September 2022.

3. Declarations of Interest

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 and Clerks of
Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and
other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the
minutes.)

4. Public Participation

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

(Pages 5 - 16)

webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

- 5. Audit and Governance Committee Forward Plan** (Pages 17 - 18)

To receive items and review the Audit and Governance Committee Forward Plan.
- 6. Audit & Governance Committee action/recommendation tracker** (Pages 19 - 20)

To receive an update on the status and progress of actions and recommendations arising from the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 12th September 2022
- 7. External Auditors 2020/2021 Key Recommendations Update** (Pages 21 - 32)

This matter is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Corporate Resources, Cllr Benet Allen.

Report Author: Paul Fitzgerald, Assistant Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer

To consider and note the arrangements in place to mitigate risks, and the further actions taken in response to the auditor’s key recommendation.
- 8. External Audit Findings Report 2021/2022** (Pages 33 - 84)

This matter is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Corporate Resources, Cllr Benet Allen.

Report Authors: John Dyson - Corporate Finance Manager, Jackson Murray – Key Audit Partner, Grant Thornton and Oliver Durbin – Audit Manager, Grant Thornton.

To consider the annual report of the Council’s external auditor Grant Thornton UK LLP outlining the findings from the audit of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts for Somerset West and Taunton Council.
- 9. Annual Governance Statement (Audited) 2021/2022** (Pages 85 - 120)

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts.

Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager and Monitoring Officer

To consider the audited Annual Governance Statement for

2021/22.

10. Somerset West and Taunton Council Statement of Accounts 2021/2022

(Pages 121 - 244)

This matter is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Corporate Resources, Cllr Benet Allen.

Report Author: John Dyson, Corporate Finance Manager

To consider the Somerset West and Taunton Council Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 (Appendix A) and a draft Management Letter of Representation (Appendix B).

This report also links to and reflects the Audit Findings Report, prepared by the Council's external auditors – Grant Thornton UK LLP. Through the course of the audit, a range of amendments have been identified for correction within the accounts. A schedule of these is set out in the Audit Findings Report, which has been tabled earlier in the meeting of this Committee.



**ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded and webcast. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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