

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council

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Date: 7 October 2024

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A MEETING OF THE

Joint Audit and Governance Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM

MEETING ROOM 1, ABBEY HOUSE, ABBEY CLOSE, ABINGDON, OX14 3JE

To watch this virtual meeting, follow this link to the council's [YouTube channel](#).

Members of the Committee:

South Oxfordshire District Council

Mocky Khan (Co-Chair)

Emily Smith (Co-Chair)

Peter Dragonetti

Leigh Rawlins

Tony Worgan

Vale of White Horse District Council

Emily Smith (Co-Chair)

Oliver Forder

Judy Roberts

Andrew Skinner

Preferred Substitutes:

South Oxfordshire District Council

James Barlow

David Bretherton

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Katharine Keats-Rohan

Axel Macdonald

Denise Macdonald

Jo Robb

David Turner

Vale of White Horse District Council

Andy Cooke

Eric de la Harpe

Jenny Hannaby

Mike Pighills

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1 Chair's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chair and general housekeeping matters.

2 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

3 Minutes (Pages 5 - 7)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Joint Audit and Governance Committee minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2024.

4 Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and any conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

5 Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

6 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

7 Treasury management - ESG Investment Review (Pages 8 - 11)

To receive the report from the Head of Finance.

To present to Joint Audit and Governance Committee the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment reviews undertaken by Link Treasury Services for the councils and to seek recommendations from the committee to the Head of Finance for consideration in the preparation of the treasury management strategies for 2025/26.

If the committee would like to discuss matters contained in the confidential appendices, it will be necessary to go into confidential session.

RECOMMENDATION:

Joint Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to consider the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment review reports by Link Treasury Services and make recommendations to the Head of Finance for consideration in the preparation of the councils' treasury management strategies for

2025/26.

8 Annual complaints report (Pages 12 - 68)

To receive the report from the Head of Corporate Services.

The purpose of the report is to provide a review of formal complaints the councils received during 2023-24 which were considered under the corporate complaints' procedure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the committee notes:

- (a) the formal complaints received in 2023-24 and the councils' performance in responding against timescales set out in our Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure as shown in **Appendix 1**
- (b) the complaints received by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman relating to the councils in 2023-24 as shown in **Appendix 2**
- (c) the councils' self-assessment as required by the Housing Ombudsman code of practice as shown in **Appendix 3**
- (d) the revised Corporate Complaints Policy & Procedure as set out in **Appendix 4**.

9 Treasury management outturn report - 2023/24 (Pages 69 - 89)

To receive the report from the Head of Finance.

The report provides details of the treasury activities for the financial year 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Joint Audit and Governance Committee:

- a) notes the treasury management outturn report 2023/24,
- b) considers whether it is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy, and
- c) make any comments and recommendations to Cabinets as necessary.

10 2023/24 Annual Joint Audit and Governance Report to Council (Pages 90 - 96)

To receive the report from the Head of Finance.

In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police, it is recommended practice for an annual public report to be produced demonstrating how the Joint Audit and Governance Committee has discharged its responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Joint Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to review the draft report attached at Appendix 1 which outlines the committee's activity during 2023/24, agree any amendments and finalise in preparation for presentation to Council meetings by the respective co-chair of Joint Audit and Governance Committee.

11 Work Programme (Pages 97 - 103)

To note the committee's work programme.

12 Exclusion of the public

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that:

- (i) It is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

13 Confidential - Treasury management - ESG Investment Review Appendices (Pages 104 - 164)

To note the reports from the council's treasury advisors Link Treasury Services (Link).

Vivien Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic (Interim)