

Notice of Meeting

Audit and Governance Committee



Date and Time

Wednesday, 22
November 2023
10.00 am

Place

Surrey County
Council, Council
Chamber,
Woodhatch Place,
11 Cockshot Hill,
Reigate, Surrey,
RH2 8EF

Contact


Amelia Christopher

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Committee Members:

Victor Lewanski (Chairman), Richard Tear (Vice-Chairman), Ayesha Azad, Helyn Clack, Stephen Cooksey, Joanne Sexton and Terry Price (Independent Member)

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, e.g. large print or braille, or another language, please email Amelia Christopher on amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk.

This meeting will be held in public at the venue mentioned above and may be webcast live. Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area or attending online, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If webcast, a recording will be available on the Council's website post-meeting. The live webcast and recording can be accessed via the Council's website:

<https://surreycc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please email Amelia Christopher on amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk. Please note that public seating is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

To receive any apologies for absence and substitutions.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Pages
1 - 12)

To agree the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter

- (i) Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- (ii) Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

To receive any questions or petitions.

Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00pm four working days before the meeting (*16 November 2023*).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*15 November 2023*).
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND WORK PLAN

(Pages
13 - 40)

To review the Committee's recommendations tracker and work plan.

6 LGSCO ANNUAL LETTER AND COMPLAINTS HANDLING UPDATE

(Pages
41 - 50)

To give the Audit & Governance Committee an overview of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGSCO) annual letter for the year 2022/23 and an update on complaint handling across the council.

- 7 6 MONTH COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT 2023/24** (Pages 51 - 76)
- To give the Audit & Governance Committee an overview of the volumes and themes of complaints for the first six months of the 2023/24 year.
- 8 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT HALF YEAR UPDATE** (Pages 77 - 96)
- This report provides an update on progress on the improvement areas identified in the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement for monitoring purposes.
- 9 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22** (Pages 97 - 368)
- To present the audited Statement of Accounts for the Council Group and Pension Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 and the external auditor's Final Audit Findings Report.
- 10 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23 - PROGRESS REPORT** (Pages 369 - 388)
- To update the Audit and Governance Committee on the progress of the external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2022/23.
- 11 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2023/24** (Pages 389 - 404)
- This report summarises the Council's treasury management activity during the first half of 2023/24, as required to ensure compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management.
- 12 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 2** (Pages 405 - 422)
- The purpose of this progress report is to inform Members of the work completed by Internal Audit between 1 July 2023 and 30 September 2023.
- The current annual plan for Internal Audit is contained within the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2023-24, which was approved by this Committee on 8 March 2023.
- 13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- The next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee will be on 17 January 2024.

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive

Published: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Members of the public and the press may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode during meetings. Public Wi-Fi is available; please ask the committee manager for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at Council meetings. Please liaise with the committee manager prior to the start of the meeting so that the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

The use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to any Council equipment or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

Thank you for your co-operation.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cabinet and most committees will consider questions by elected Surrey County Council Members and questions and petitions from members of the public who are electors in the Surrey County Council area.

Please note the following regarding questions from the public:

1. Members of the public can submit one written question to a meeting by the deadline stated in the agenda. Questions should relate to general policy and not to detail. Questions are asked and answered in public and cannot relate to “confidential” or “exempt” matters (for example, personal or financial details of an individual); for further advice please contact the committee manager listed on the front page of an agenda.
2. The number of public questions which can be asked at a meeting may not exceed six. Questions which are received after the first six will be held over to the following meeting or dealt with in writing at the Chairman’s discretion.
3. Questions will be taken in the order in which they are received.
4. Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a question, provide a written reply or nominate another Member to answer the question.
5. Following the initial reply, one supplementary question may be asked by the questioner. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a supplementary question.