



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2024

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Members of the Committee

Councillor Kaur Saini (Chair)
(Vice-Chair Vacancy)

Councillors Adatia, Cassidy, Dave, Kitterick, Surti and Whittle

Independent Member Mr Bipon Bhakri

One unallocated Labour Group place

Members of the Committee are summoned to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for Monitoring Officer

Officer contact: Jessica Skidmore
Governance Support Officer
, Governance Services, Leicester City Council,
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
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Email. committees@leicester.gov.uk

Information for Members of the Public

Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as Full Council, committee meetings, and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. However, on occasion, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

A guide to attending public meetings can be found on the [Decisions, Meetings and Minutes](#) page of the Council website.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk, or by contacting us using the details below.

Making meetings accessible to all

Wheelchair access – Public meeting rooms at the City Hall are accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to City Hall is from the middle entrance door on Charles Street - press the plate on the right hand side of the door to open the door automatically.

Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Governance Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Induction loops - There are induction loop facilities in City Hall meeting rooms. Please speak to the Governance Support Officer using the details below.

Filming and Recording the Meeting - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Governance Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Governance Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact committees@leicester.gov.uk

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Governance Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to declare any interests they have in the business to be discussed.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. RELATED PARTIES REPORT

Appendix A
(Pages 1 - 10)

The Director of Finance submits a report to the Governance and Audit Committee which presents the report by Grant Thornton on the Council's transactions to Haymarket Consortium Limited.

The Committee is recommended to note the report and provide any comments to the External Auditors or Monitoring Officer.

5. STATUTORY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

Appendix B
(Pages 11 - 260)

The Director of Finance submits a report to the Governance and Audit Committee which presents the Statutory Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023.

The Governance & Audit Committee is recommended to:

- Note the auditor's ISA 260 Report (the Audit Findings Report) to those charged with Governance and the recommendations contained within it, attached at Appendix 1.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts 2022/23, Appendix 2
- Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, Appendix 2.
- Approve the Letter of Representation submitted by the Director of Finance (S151), attached at Appendix 3.

- Delegate authority to approve any minor amendments to the Annual Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement to the Director of Finance, subject to a report to the Committee at the next meeting.

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 **Appendix C**
(Pages 261 - 296)

The Director of Finance submits a report to the Governance and Audit Committee which presents the Value for Money report for 2022-2023.

The Committee is recommended to note the Finance Update report attached at appendix B, to those charged with Governance and pass any comments to the External Auditor.

7. FINANCE UPDATE **Appendix D**
(Pages 297 - 300)

The Director of Finance submits a report to the Governance and Audit Committee informing of updates including the improvements on accounts at Leicester City Council.

The Governance & Audit Committee is recommended to note the report.

8. PRIVATE SESSION

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

Under the law, the Committee is entitled to consider certain items in private where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the matter exempt from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

The Committee is recommended to consider the following reports in private on the grounds that they contain 'exempt' information as defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended, and consequently that the Sub-Committee makes the following resolution:-

“that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because they involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraphs detailed below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

Paragraph 3

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person

(including the authority).

- Future Provision of the Internal Audit Service

9. FUTURE PROVISION OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

**Appendix E
(Pages 301 - 308)**

The Director of Finance submits a report to update the Committee with the progress being made to engage a new internal audit service provider.

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and make any comments to the Director of Finance.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS