



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY, 14 JULY 2025

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)

Councillor Russell (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bajaj, Joel, Moore, Rae Bhatia, Singh Patel and Kitterick

Independent Member Mr Bipon Bhakri

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

for Monitoring Officer

Officer contact: Sharif Chowdhury
Senior Governance Officer
Governance Services, Leicester City Council,
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
Tel. 01164540538
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 Democratic 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 Democratic 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 Democratic Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic 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 Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25 **Item 3**
(Pages 1 - 176)

The Director of Finance submits the Draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to note the content of the report and make any comments.

4. ANNUAL NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2024/25 **Item 4**
(Pages 177 - 182)

The Director of Finance submits the Annual Report on the National Fraud Initiative for 2024/25.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to note the content of the report and make any comments.

5. COUNTER FRAUD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 **Item 5**
(Pages 183 - 188)

The Director of Finance submits the Counter Fraud Annual Report for 2024/25.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to note the content of the report and make any recommendations to the Executive and/or the Director of Finance.

6. HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 **Item 6**
(Pages 189 - 232)

The Head of Internal Audit submits the Head of Internal Audit Annual Report for 2024/25.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to:

- Note the results of internal audit work undertaken, and the opinion of the

Head of Internal Audit that Reasonable Assurance can be provided on the adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and internal control.

- Note the outcome of Veritau's quality assurance and development arrangements, including the confirmation that the internal audit service conforms to public sector internal auditing standards.
- Note that no significant control weaknesses have been identified by internal audit during the year which are considered relevant to the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.
- Approve the draft internal audit charter.

7. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 - BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE JANUARY-JUNE 2025 **Item 7**
(Pages 233 - 236)

The City Barrister and Head of Standards submits the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Bi-Annual Performance Report January 2025 – June 2025.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to:

- Receive the Report and note its contents.
- Make any recommendations or comments it sees fit either to the Executive or to the City Barrister and Head of Standards.

8. INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 **Item 8**
(Pages 237 - 244)

The Director of Finance submits the Insurance Annual report for 2024/25.

The Governance and Audit Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report, and the Council's approach to ensuring it is managing the financial risk associated with insurance claims.

9. ACTION TRACKER **Item 9**
(Pages 245 - 246)

The Committee is recommended to note progress on actions agreed at the previous meeting and not reported elsewhere on the agenda (if any).

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

11. 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 7 Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

**12. FUTURE PROVISION OF THE CORPORATE
INVESTIGATIONS SERVICE**

Item 12
(Pages 247 - 254)

