



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY, 13 JULY 2026

TIME: 5:30 pm

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

Members of the Committee

Councillor Manjit Kaur Saini (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Russell (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bajaj, Joel, Dr Moore, Rae Bhatia, Karavadra Patrick Kitterick

Independent members – Seema Jaffer and Mohammed Chunara

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Officer contact: Sharif Chowdhury Senior Governance Officer Governance Services, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ Tel. 01164540538 Email. governance@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, City Mayor & Executive Public Briefing and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

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

Making meetings accessible to all

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Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Governance Services 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 Services 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 Services.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Governance Services 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 Sharif Chowdhury on governance@leicester.gov.uk or call in at City Hall.

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Item 3

(Pages 1 - 6)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2026 are attached and Members will be asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2026/27

Members will be asked to note the membership of the committee for 2026/27 as follows:

Councillor Manjit Kaur Saini - Chair
Councillor Sarah Russell – Vice-Chair
Councillor Deepak Bajaj
Councillor Ashiedu Joel
Councillor Lynn Moore
Councillor Hemant Rae Bhatia
Councillor Geeta Karavadra
Councillor Patrick Kitterick
Independent member – Seema Jaffer
Independent member – Mohammed Chunara

5. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE COMMISSION 2026/27

Members will be asked to note the meeting dates of the committee for 2026/27 as follows:

Monday 13 July 2026
Wednesday 16 September 2026
Wednesday 18 November 2026
Monday 25 January 2027
Wednesday 10 March 2027

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND RISK ASSESSMENT **Item 6**
(Pages 7 - 48)

The Director of Finance submits the External Audit Plan and Risk Assessment 2025/26 report to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and make any comments and to consider the Audit Pan 2025/26 at Appendix 1.

7. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26 **Item 7**
(Pages 49 - 226)

The Director of Finance submits the Draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 report to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Committee is asked to consider the:

- Draft Annual Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 at appendix 1.
- Draft Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 at appendix 1.

8. HOUSING REGULATOR OF SOCIAL HOUSING - GOVERNANCE **Item 8**
(Pages 227 - 232)

The Director of Housing submits the Governance and Assurance Arrangements – Regulator of Social Housing Improvement Programme to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the governance and assurance arrangements in place to oversee delivery of the RSH Performance Improvement Plan; and
2. Take assurance that appropriate frameworks are in place to monitor progress, manage risk and provide Member oversight.

9. COUNTER FRAUD ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 (INCLUDING ANNUAL NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2025/26) **Item 9**
(Pages 233 - 246)

The Director of Finance submits the Counter Fraud Annual Report 2025/26 (including Annual National Fraud Initiative 2025/26) to the Governance & Audit Committee.

The Committee is recommended to note the counter fraud activity completed during 2025/26.

10. HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 **Item 10**
(Pages 247 - 278)

The Head of Internal Audit submits the Head of Internal Audit Service Annual Report 2025/26 to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Committee is recommended to:

2.1.1 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.

2.1.2 Note the outcome of Veritau's quality assurance and improvement programme, including the confirmation that the internal audit service conforms to public sector internal auditing standards.

2.1.3 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.

11. INSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Item 11

(Pages 279 - 286)

The Director of Finance submits the Insurance Annual Report 2025/26 to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The 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.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

