



Leicester
City Council

Governance Services
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

24 June 2026

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2026 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

AUDIO STREAM OF MEETING

A live audio stream of the meeting can be heard on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@leicestercitycouncildemocr5339>

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th of March 2026 and 14 May 2026 are available to view at:

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 26 March 2026, 5:00 pm | Leicester City Council](#)

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 26 March 2026, 5:15 pm | Leicester City Council](#)

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 14 May 2026, 5:00 pm | Leicester City Council](#)

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 14 May 2026, 5:15 pm | Leicester City Council](#)

Copies are also available from Governance Services on (0116) 454 6350 or governance@leicester.gov.uk

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

5. PETITIONS

- Presented by Members of the Public – Mr David Brazier, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre
- Presented by Councillors - None
- Petitions to be debated - None

6. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public

- From Councillors

7. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

**a) APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES
2026-27 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**8. REPORTS OF REGULATORY AND STANDARDS
COMMITTEE**

**a) GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26**

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Adventure Playgrounds

Proposed by Councillor Kitterick, seconded by Councillor Bora:

This Council Notes

- At its Annual Budget Meeting on 25th February 2026 Leicester City Council was informed by the City Mayor that £2million of funding was to be provided for Adventure Playgrounds in the City.
- This was confirmed in a Press Release issued by the City Council on 26th February 2026.
- Subsequent communications from the City Council have caused concern amongst Adventure Playgrounds that the actual support for their valuable work will be well short of the promised £2million which was pledged.

This Council believes that the extremely valuable work Adventure Playgrounds have performed for over 50 years in the city deserves our continue support.

This Council calls upon the City Mayor to give the necessary resources as indicated, and voted for at the 25th February 2026 Budget Meeting to continue the vital work that Leicester Adventure Playgrounds carry out, combatting the child poverty that afflicts our city, and improving the lives of Leicester's Children for over half a century.

Motion 2: Leicester's Health Services

Proposed by Councillor Kitterick, seconded by Councillor Haq:

This Council notes with concern the following facts about the health of our City.

- Leicester has the second worst ratio of GPs to patients in the country, with 1 GP for every 3262 people.

- Leicester people can expect 3 years less healthy life than the national average.
- Leicester has one of the highest Infant Mortality rates in the country.
- Leicester has one of the lowest rates of vaccination in the UK which has dropped dramatically in the City in the last 15 years.

This Council, therefore, calls for the City Council to lead a plan to combat these and the many other health issues experienced by people in City. It should do this by bringing together all organisations and parties in a movement to develop a plan to address the deep health inequalities that exist in Leicester and to report back on this plan to this Council with an Annual "Health of the City" report.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Information for members of the public

Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure

- The Council Chamber Fire Exits are the two entrances either side of the top bench or under the balcony in the far-left corner of the room.
- In the event of an emergency alarm sounding make your way to Town Hall Square and assemble on the far side of the fountain.
- Anyone who is unable to evacuate using stairs should speak to any of the Town Hall staff at the beginning of the meeting who will offer advice on evacuation arrangements.
- From the public gallery, exit via the way you came in, or via the Chamber as directed by Town Hall staff.

Meeting Arrangements

- Please ensure that all mobile phones are either switched off or put on silent mode for the duration of the Council Meeting.
- Please do not take food into the Council Chamber.
- Tweeting in formal Council meetings is fine as long as it does not disrupt the meeting. Will all Members please ensure they use their microphones to assist in the clarity of the audio recording.

You have the right to attend, view, formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings & 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 <https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/>, or by contacting us using the details below.

Making meetings accessible to all

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

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.

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

Sharif Chowdhury, Senior Governance Support Officer. email governance@leicester.gov.uk or call in at City Hall.

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

Appointment of Council Committees 2026- 27 Municipal Year

Decision to be taken by: Full Council

Date of meeting: 2 July 2026

Lead director/officer: Kamal Adatia

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kamal Adatia
- Author contact details: Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This report seeks the approval of Members to appoint Councillor Teresa Aldred as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee for the remainder of the 2026-27 municipal year, replacing Councillor Dr Lynn Moore who was agreed as Vice-Chair at the AGM on 14th May 2026.

2. Recommended actions/decision

Appoint Councillor Teresa Aldred as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee for the remainder of the 2026-27 municipal year.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The proposal has been discussed with the relevant political group and committee members as appropriate.

No formal consultation or scrutiny has been undertaken as this is an appointment matter reserved to Full Council.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

At the Annual Council meeting held on 14 May 2026, Councillor Dr Lynn Moore was appointed Vice-Chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee.

Since the appointment, a request has been received to appoint a new Vice-Chair.

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with legal requirements.

Signed:

Dated:

5.2 Legal implications

This report is concerned solely with legal matters. The Council's Constitution reserves to Full Council the task of appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees, under CPR 36(a)(i)(b) and under CPR 36(a)(v) this includes the power to appoint and re-appoint from time to time.

Signed: Kamal Adatia

Dated:

5.3 Equalities implications

This report is solely concerned with legal requirements.

Signed:

Dated:

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report is solely concerned with legal requirements.

Signed:

Dated:

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

6. Background information and other papers:

N/A

7. Summary of appendices:

N/A

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

N/A

9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

No.

Governance & Audit Annual Report 2025/26

Governance & Audit Committee

Decision to be taken by:

Date of meeting: 16 March 2026

Lead director: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Claire Gavagan
- Author contact details: claire.gavagan@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1. To present to the Council the report of the Governance & Audit Committee setting out the Committee's work and achievements over the municipal year 2025/26.
- 1.2. This report was presented to the Committee for approval at its meeting on 16 March.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Governance & Audit Committee is recommended to approve this report for submission to the Council, subject to any amendments that it may wish to make.
- 2.2. Council is recommended to receive this report.

3. Scrutiny/Stakeholder engagement

N/A

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1. The The Committee's terms of reference approved by Council require the submission of an annual report on its activities, conduct, business and effectiveness. The CIPFA* guidance on Audit Committees states that the audit committee should be held to account on a regular basis by Council, and that the preparation of an annual report can be helpful in this regard.
(* CIPFA – the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy).
- 4.2. Following the Committee's approval, this report will proceed to Council.
- 4.3. The Governance & Audit Committee considered a wide range of business in fulfilment of its central role as part of the Council's system of corporate governance, risk management, fraud and internal control. It conducted its business in an appropriate manner through a programme of meetings and fulfilled the expectations placed upon it. Its membership was expanded to include an additional independent member, meaning the committee now has two independent members, in line with CIPFA guidance. Both members are recent appointments and were introduced at the November 2025 meeting, as the three-year term for the previous independent member had come to an end.

5. Detailed report

- 5.1. The Committee's terms of reference are regularly reviewed. They formally confer upon it the role of 'the board' for the purposes of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, which are the recognised professional standards for local authority internal audit. The Standards are the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditor's International Professional Practices Framework, interpreted and adopted for local government by CIPFA.
- 5.2. During the municipal year 2025/26, the Committee met on seven occasions (including this meeting). All meetings were properly constituted and quorate. The Committee's terms of reference require it to meet at least four times during the year. The Director of Finance, internal audit and various officers attended meetings of the Committee. In addition, and in the interests of providing the full range of legal, constitutional and financial advice and expertise, the Committee was supported by the City Barrister & Head of Standards or his representatives.
- 5.3. Members may recall the CIPFA publication "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities." The guidance notes that "audit committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework. Their function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management."
- 5.4. Further to this, it notes the purpose of the committee is to provide those charged with governance with independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes.
- 5.5. It is considered that Governance & Audit Committee continued to meet the requirements for an effective Audit Committee. In summary the reasons for this are:
 - The Committee meets regularly, and its chair and membership are sufficiently independent of other functions of the Council. Meetings are conducted constructively, are free and open and are not subject to political influences;
 - The Committee's terms of reference provide a sufficient spread of responsibilities covering internal and external audit, risk management and governance;
 - The Committee plays a sufficient role in the management of Internal Audit, including approval of the audit plan, review of Internal Audit's performance and the outcomes of audit work, together with management's responses to recommendations made;
 - The Committee received reports from Grant Thornton as the Council's external auditor and maintained an overview of the external audit process, including the fees charged; and
 - The Committee was updated on changes in governance and local authority finances during the year.
- 5.6. It is recognised that Committee members need suitable training. Arrangements

continue to be made to provide training on relevant topics. The Committee may also request informal briefings on key topics.

- 5.7. The committee continues to be supported by two independent members
- 5.8. Taking all the above into account, the Committee has continued to make an important contribution to the effectiveness of the City Council's internal control and corporate governance frameworks. It is a central component of the Council's system of internal control.
- 5.9. The key outcomes from the Committee's work included:
- a Internal Audit**
- The Committee considered the Internal Audit annual plans and monitored delivery and outcomes during the year. The Committee also received the Internal Audit annual reports and opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2024/25.
 - The Committee reserves the right to summon relevant officers to attend its meetings to discuss in more depth specific issues raised by Internal Audit reports. This has helped to maintain the profile of the Committee and its role in promoting adherence to procedures and improved internal control.
 - The Committee also approved an updated internal audit charter and were informed of work by the internal auditors to support senior management in assessing its conformance with the new Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government.
- b Counter-Fraud**
- The Committee maintained an effective overview of the Council's measures to combat fraud and financial irregularity. Specifically, the Committee:
 - Considered counter-fraud reports, which brought together the various strands of counter-fraud work with data on the various types of work carried out by the teams involved.
 - Reviewed and supported the Council's participation in the National Fraud Initiative.
 - Approved the Council's updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy, and Anti-Money Laundering Policy.
- c External Audit**
- The Committee considered the external auditor's plans and progress and the outcomes of this work, with particular reference to the annual audit of the Council's statutory financial statements and value for money arrangements.
 - The Committee was kept updated on the national issues with local authority accounts and audit, which delayed the finalisation of the Council's statutory statement of accounts. The Committee monitored progress and asked questions about the impact.
 - The Committee received the 2024/25 Audit Findings Report at its meeting in February 2026, allowing the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 to be published with an unqualified audit opinion. The committee noted recommendations for management from external audit, including improvements needed to some of the processes involved in the production of the Statement of Accounts, such as accounting for property, plant and

equipment.

d Risk Management

- The Committee maintained a regular overview of the Council's risk management arrangements. This included the Council's strategic and operational risk registers, identifying potential emerging risks to the Council and its services, together with the Risk Management Strategy and Policy and the Corporate Business Continuity Management Strategy.

e Corporate Governance

- The Committee fulfilled the responsibilities as 'the board' for the purposes of the City Council's conformance to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- The Committee maintained its oversight of the Council's corporate governance arrangements. The Council's updated assurance framework, which maps out the process for collating the various sources of assurance and preparing the Council's statutory Annual Governance Statement, was reviewed and approved by the Committee.
- The Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.
- This annual report to Council is part of the governance arrangements, through giving a summary of the Committee's work and contribution to the good governance of the City Council and demonstrating the associated accountability.

f Financial Reporting

- The Committee received and approved the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 and associated external audit reports. It approved the Council's letters of representation, by means of which the Council gives assurance to the external auditor that there were no significant items not reflected in the Council's accounting statements. As noted above, the Committee were kept updated on the delays in finalising the accounts and audit.
- The external auditor's Annual Governance Reports were issued to the Committee as 'those charged with governance' and considered accordingly. In these reports, the auditor confirmed that his audit opinion on the Council's financial statements would be expected to be 'unqualified'.

g Procurement

- The Committee were asked to provide feedback on the revised contract procedures rules for changes introduced by the Procurement Act 2024, prior to them being considered by Council.
- The Committee raised concerns about the use of procurement waivers, including the increase in the number of waivers, which was primarily due to increased financial controls that have been put in place, which identified spend without contracts.

h Complaints

- The committee received an annual update on the delivery of the complaints service for 2024/25, including complaints raised with the Local Government and Social Care and Housing Ombudsman.
- The committee requested additional details on Ombudsman reports going forwards.

i Other Work

During the year the Committee also received updates and reports on the following areas:

- Health & Safety
- Insurance

5.10. Conclusions

- The Committee met the requirements of its terms of reference as mentioned above and has fulfilled the good practice guidance issued by CIPFA.
- It is the view of the Director of Finance (the s151 officer) that the Governance & Audit Committee made a significant contribution to the good governance of the City Council. Through its work, it has reinforced the Council's systems of internal control and internal audit and has given valuable support to the arrangements for corporate governance, legal compliance and the management of risk.

6. Financial, legal and other implications

6.1. Financial implications

An adequate and effective Governance & Audit Committee is a central component in the governance and assurance processes intended to help ensure that the Council operates efficiently, cost effectively and with integrity. Its support for the processes of audit and internal control will help the Council as it continues to face financially challenging times.

Signed: Claire Gavagan, Assistant Director of Finance
Dated: 27 February 2026

6.2. Legal implications

The Governance & Audit Committee aids the fulfilment by the Council of its statutory responsibilities under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 by considering the findings of a review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control. It is an important part of the way in which the duties of the responsible financial officer under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972 are met.

Kevin Carter, Head of Law – Commercial, Property and Planning
5 March 2026

6.3. Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

The areas of responsibility of the Committee all contribute to the council's effective delivery of actions towards the City Mayor's strategic priority for achieving a Climate Ready Leicester, as set out in the Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28. This includes the identification and management of risks arising from the climate emergency, as set out in

the Strategic Risk Register.

Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246
5th March 2026

6.4. Equalities

The work undertaken by the committee provides confirmation for full Council, as the body charged with governance, that arrangements in place are up to date, fit for purpose, communicated and embedded, monitored and routinely complied with. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the report. Corporate governance is the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities. It is founded on the basic principles of openness and inclusivity, integrity and accountability.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148
5 March 2026

6.5. Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERRED
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights / People on low incomes	No	
Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Impact	No	

7. Background information and other papers:

Agendas and minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee meetings in 2025/26.

8. Summary of appendices:

N/A

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a “key decision”?

No

