



**Committee:**           **Audit and Governance Committee**

**Date:**               **Wednesday 22 July 2026**

**Time:**              **6.30 pm**

**Venue:**             **39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD**

### **Membership**

|                                        |                                             |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Councillor Simon Lytton (Chair)</b> | <b>Councillor David Rogers (Vice-Chair)</b> |
| Councillor Besmira Brasha              | Councillor Mark Gorman                      |
| Councillor Ian Middleton               | Councillor Julian Nedelcu                   |
| Councillor Robert Parkinson            | Councillor Alisa Russell                    |
| Nelly Lukwo                            | Independent Person, no voting rights        |
| Sarah Thompson                         | Independent Person, no voting rights        |

**Substitutes**           **Any member of the relevant political group.**

## **AGENDA**

**1.     Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**

**2.     Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

**3.     Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 June 2026.

**4.     Chair's Announcements**

To receive communications from the Chair.

**5. Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chair to report on any requests to address the meeting.

**6. Urgent Business**

The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

**7. Housing Management Complaints Report (Pages 13 - 50)**

Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing.

**Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an annual report relating to housing complaints performance, in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code.

**Recommendations**

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the content of the report and appendices. The appendices, including the Complaints Handling Code self-assessment, will be published on the Council's website and will form the basis of the Council's return to the Housing Ombudsman for 2025-26.

**8. Housing Benefit Subsidy Audit 2022/23 (Pages 51 - 66)**

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer).

**Purpose of report**

To provide members of this Committee with an update on the final position of the Housing Benefit subsidy claim audit for the financial year 2022/23.

**Recommendations**

Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report

**9. Annual Governance Statement 2025-26 (Pages 67 - 112)**

Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

## **Purpose of report**

The report sets out the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the Council for 2025-26 for approval. The AGS summarises the key governance issues for the Council and the actions required to address these. The AGS is required to be approved by those charged with governance, the Audit and Governance Committee (previously Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee), under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

## **Recommendations**

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26, subject to any changes by the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.2 To authorise the Portfolio Holder for Finance, as the Leader of the Council for the year to which the Statement relates, and the Chief Executive, to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of Cherwell District Council.

## **10. Treasury Management Report - Quarter 1 2026/27 (Pages 113 - 130)**

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer).

### **Purpose of report**

To provide information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2026-27 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

To demonstrate that all treasury management activities undertaken during the reporting period complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

### **Recommendations**

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Performance Report.

## **11. Draft Statement of Accounts 2025-26 (Pages 131 - 320)**

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer).

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an opportunity for review of the draft 2025/26 Statement of Accounts which were published on the council's website on 30 June 2026.

## **Recommendations**

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the report and publication of the draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 (Appendix 1).

## **12. Review of Committee Work Programme (Pages 321 - 322)**

To consider and review the Work Programme.

**Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members' Lounge before or at the end of the meeting.**

## **Information about this Meeting**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence should be notified to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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**Queries Regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Patrick Davis, Democratic and Elections [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), 01295 221534

**Shiraz Sheikh**  
**Monitoring Officer**

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