



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Committee: **Audit and Governance Committee**

Date: **Wednesday 30 September 2026**

Time: **6.30 pm**

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

Membership

Councillor Simon Lytton (Chair)	Councillor David Rogers (Vice-Chair)
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 22 July 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. Health and Safety Report Quarter 1 2026/27 (Pages 13 - 46)

Report of Assistant Director of Human Resources

Purpose of report

To provide the Audit and Governance Committee with the Council's Health and Safety performance for Quarter 1 of 2026/27.

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

1.1 To review and note the content of the report

8. Risk Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2026-27 (Pages 47 - 66)

Report of Head of Chief Executive's Office

Purpose of report

To update the committee on how well the council is managing its Strategic Risks.

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

1.1 To note the Risk Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 2026 - 27.

9. Monitoring Officer's Annual Report 2025/26 - Complaints, Conduct & Ethics (Pages 67 - 78)

Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee an annual report on matters relating to standards and conduct of Members within the Cherwell District at District and Parish level, complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman and other matters for the municipal year of 2025/2026.

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the content of the report.

10. Internal Audit Progress Report 2026/27 (Pages 79 - 94)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report provides the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee with an update on delivery of the internal audit work programme for 2026/27.

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the progress made in delivering the 2026/27 internal audit work programme, and plans for delivery over the remainder of the year.

11. Counter Fraud Progress Report 2026/27 (Pages 95 - 104)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report presents and update to the counter fraud work undertaken in 2026/27

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the counter fraud progress report.

12. External Audit Reports 2025/26 (Pages 105 - 174)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To receive two reports setting out the auditors' Audit Completion Report for 2025/26, the draft Annual Auditor's Report and a draft Letter of Representation.

Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the Audit Completion Report for 2025/26 from our external auditors, Bishop Fleming (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 Note the contents of the draft Auditor's Annual Report for 2025/26 (Appendix 2)
- 1.3 Note the draft Letter of Representation for 2025/26 (Appendix 3)
- 1.4 Agree that, once the final audit opinion for 2025/26 is received, the Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), be authorised to make any further changes to the accounts agreed with the auditors and sign the accounts. Any further changes will be brought to the Committee's attention at its next meeting following the signing.
- 1.5 Agree that the Assistant Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), be authorised to make any further changes to the letter of representation agreed with the auditors that may arise during completion of the audit. Any further changes will be brought to the Committee's attention at its next meeting following the signing.

13. Review of Committee Work Programme (Pages 175 - 176)

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 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, 01295 221534

Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer

Published on Tuesday 22 September 2026