

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

03 September 2025

**PRESENT:**

**Labour Group**

Councillor J Carroll (Chair) and Councillor D Shepherd (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor S Bambrick, A Jones, L Singh and A Tilley

**Conservative Group**

Councillors N Atkin and D Muller

**Non-Grouped**

Councillor A Wheelton

**Independent Persons**

Peter Smith

AG/22 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

AG/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

AG/24 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

AG/25 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL  
PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

**MATTERS DELEGATED**

AG/26 **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) –  
REPORT ON USAGE**

The Monitoring Officer provided a summary of the report to the Committee and noted that there was no usage for the period 01 June 2025 and 31 August 2025.

Members considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 The Committee noted the internal report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.***

AG/27 **SUMMARY OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS (2024/25)**

The Monitoring Officer provided a summary of the report and referred Members to Annexe A of the report, noting that no complaints had been received for the period of 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Members were informed that the report would be provided to the Committee on an annual basis.

Members considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 The Committee noted the summary of the complaints, attached to the report as Annexe A, that had been considered by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Persons from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.***

AG/28 **PROGRESS OF ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE  
STATEMENT 2024-25**

The Executive Director - Resources and Transformation addressed the Committee and presented a summary of the report, noting the progress of actions as detailed in Appendix A of the report.

Members considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee noted the progress of actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25***

*as detailed in Appendix A to the Report.*

AG/29 **AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2024-25**

The Internal Auditor presented the report and noted that new guidance had been reissued to aid the guidance process for rebuilding assurance, detailed on page thirty-two of the report.

Councillor A Tilley sought clarification regarding risks and error details in part 5 of the Memorandum.

The Internal Auditor addressed the Committee and confirmed that to align with the standards, evaluation of risk took place to determine the explanation included.

Councillor N Atkin sought clarification relating to insurance evaluation and actual value and whether there would be a percentage allowance when looking at Council owned dwellings.

The Internal Auditor advised the Committee that an evaluation would not be necessary as an accounting evaluation would take place rather than a market evaluation, including social housing on yield.

Councillor A Wheelton sought clarification regarding the timescale of outstanding items and corresponding fees.

The Internal Auditor informed the Committee that broad changes in financial reporting were due to come into fruition, consequently reducing complexity and therefore future fees.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation informed the Committee that Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding covered a portion of the fees and that further detail would be reported to the Committee at a later date.

Councillor D Muller enquired whether Local Government Reorganisation had been considered.

The Internal Auditor confirmed to the Committee that Local Government Reorganisation was key on the agenda.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 The Committee noted the report attached to the report as Appendix 1.***

AG/30 **ANNUAL PROCUREMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT REPORT 2024-25**

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation provided a summary of the report to the Committee highlighting the key developments, including actions to be taken to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, strengthening governance arrangements and embedding best practice across the Council.

Councillor A Wheelton sought clarification on whether there was a value limit at which Members had oversight of spends.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation informed the Committee that items were presented for Member’s approval when there was a business need and clarified that larger expenses were often budgeted and spread over a longer period of time.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1** *The Committee noted the procurement activity and outcomes for the 2024/25 year and the ongoing work to develop and improve the Council’s Procurement function.*

AG/31 **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE QUARTER 1 - 2025-2026**

The Head of Finance and Performance provided a summary of the report to the Committee and noted that no risks had been added since the report presented to Committee last quarter.

Members sought clarification regarding the risks associated with SR6 - Economy / Regeneration, SR9 - unforeseen absences and vacancies and SR12 - ineffective partnership working, as included at 4.4 of the report.

The Head of Finance and Performance advised the Committee that funding was in place for SR6. Further information regarding SR9 was to be presented at a future Finance and Management Committee meeting. The Committee was advised that risk concerning SR12 was expected to remain at the same severity.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation confirmed that Members would have had the opportunity to consider any item where the severity of the risk changes.

Councillor N Atkin sought clarity about how the Council would be affected by Derbyshire County Council’s withdrawal of funding for organisations.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation advised the Committee that information would be gathered from Head of Cultural and Community Services and be relayed to Committee at a later meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Committee considered the report and Strategic Risk Register, as set out at Appendix A of the report.**

AG/32 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Internal Auditor presented the report and provided a summary of the report to the Committee.

Members sought clarification regarding the completion of outstanding items and delayed target dates.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation advised the Committee that the reasonings had been outlined in the report had been presented at the 18 June 2025 Audit and Governance Committee meeting. Regular meetings between the Internal Auditor and officers would take place in order to understand delays.

The Executive Director – Law and People informed the Committee that recent recruitment should aid in completing outstanding tasks.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Committee considered the report of the Audit Manager, attached to the report as Appendix 1 and noted that any issues identified would be subject to a follow-up report as appropriate.**

AG/33 **INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER AND MANDATE**

The Internal Auditor provided a summary of the report to the Committee and noted that an Internal Audit Charter was a requirement for the most recent audit standards.

Members considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Committee reviewed and approved the Central Midlands Audit Partnership's Internal Audit Charter, (including the Internal Audit Mandate), attached to the report as Appendix 1.**

AG/34 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation presented the report to the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee noted the Committee Work Programme.**

AG/35 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

**RESOLVED:**

***That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.***

AG/36 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Audit and Governance Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The Meeting terminated at 18:55 hours.

Councillor J Carroll

CHAIR