Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ

Date: 18 November 2026

Committee:
Audit & Governance Committee

Date: Thursday 26 November 2026
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: The Shrewsbury Room, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click here to view the livestream* of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda.

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel Here

Richard Phillips
Director- Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer).

Members of Audit & Governance Committee

Sharon Ritchie-Simmons (Chair)
Kate Halliday (Vice Chairman)
Duncan Kerr
Malcolm Myles-Hook
Mark Owen
Duncan Borrowman
Nigel Lumby
Greg Ebbs
Brendan Mallon

Your Committee Officer is:

Michelle Dulson Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257719
Email: michelle.dulson@shropshire.gov.uk

When attending this meeting, Members are reminded of the three principles of the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics Civility Pledge:

1. *Use a civil and constructive tone in debate*
2. *Act with integrity, honesty and compassion*
3. *Behave respectfully towards others, including those I disagree with*

*(Please note that while we strive to live stream meetings, technical issues may occasionally occur. In the event of a technical disruption, the meeting will be paused to try to resolve the issue. Should it not be possible to resume the live stream, the meeting will proceed as scheduled, and a backup recording will be made available after the meeting. Any disruption to the live stream does not affect the legality of the meeting).

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence / Notification of Substitutes

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25 September 2026 (Pages 1 - 12)

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 25 September 2026 are attached for confirmation.
Contact Michelle Dulson (01743) 257719

4 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 12noon on Friday 20 November 2026.

5 Member Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 12noon on Friday 20 November 2026.

6 Governance assurance: Constitution Review

A verbal update will be given by the Monitoring Officer.
Contact: Richard Phillips (01743) 256603

7 First line assurance: Asset Disposals (Pages 13 - 14)

The report of the Head of Property and Development is attached.
Contact: Steve Law (01743) 251017

8 **First line assurance: Final Approval Statement of Accounts 2025/26**

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer is to follow – not yet finalised.
Contact: Duncan Whitfield (01743) 254928

9 **Third line assurance: External Audit: Auditors Annual Report 2025/26 (Value For Money)** (Pages 15 - 98)

The report of the Engagement Lead is attached.
Contact: Avtar S Sohal (0121) 232 6420

10 **Third line of assurance: External Audit: Shropshire Council Audit Findings Report 2025/26** (Pages 99 - 150)

The report of the Engagement Lead is attached.
Contact: Avtar S Sohal (0121) 232 6420

11 **Third line assurance: Internal Audit Performance Report and revised Annual Audit Plan 2026/27** (Pages 151 - 170)

The report of the Head of Policy and Governance is attached.
Contact: Barry Hanson 07990 086409

12 **Second line assurance: Treasury Strategy Mid-Year Report 2026/27** (Pages 171 - 196)

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer is attached.
Contact: Duncan Whitfield (01743) 254928

13 **Governance Assurance: Annual Audit and Governance Committee Self-Assessment** (Pages 197 - 218)

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer is attached.
Contact: Duncan Whitfield (01743) 254928

14 **Second line assurance: Annual review of Counter Fraud, Bribery and Anti-Corruption Strategy and activities, including an update on the National Fraud Initiative** (Pages 219 - 250)

The report of the Head of Policy and Governance is attached.
Contact: Barry Hanson 07990 086409

15 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Audit Committee will be held on the 4 February 2027 at 10.00 am.

16 Exclusion of Press and Public

To RESOLVE that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations and Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items.

17 Exempt Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th September 2026 (Pages 251 - 254)

The Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th September 2026 are attached for confirmation.
Contact: Michelle Dulson (01743) 257719

18 Third line assurance: Contract Rules Exemptions Update (Exempted by Category 3) (Pages 255 - 264)

The exempt report of the Monitoring Officer is attached.
Contact: Richard Phillips (01743) 256603

19 Third Line Assurance: Fraud, Special Investigation, RIPA and Exemptions Update (Exempted by Categories 1, 2, 3 and 7) (Pages 265 - 270)

The exempt report of the Internal Audit Manager is attached.
Contact: Katie Williams (01743) 255637