

# Agenda

## Audit and Governance Committee

Date: **Tuesday 9 June 2026**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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Place: **Conference Room 2, Herefordshire Council Offices,  
Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

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Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

**Jen Preece, Democratic Services Officer**

Tel: 01432 261699

Email: [jennypreece@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jennypreece@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call Jen Preece, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 261699 or e-mail [jennypreece@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jennypreece@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# **Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee**

## **Membership**

**Chairperson**            **Councillor David Hitchiner**

**Vice-chairperson**   **Councillor Mark Woodall**

**Councillor Chris Bartrum**

**Councillor Frank Cornthwaite**

**Councillor Peter Hamblin**

**Councillor Robert Highfield**

**Councillor Aubrey Oliver**

**Kerry Diamond - Independent Expert**

## Agenda

		Pages
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p><b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>To receive details of any councillor nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of the committee.</p>	
3.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026.</p>	11 - 16
<p><b>HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of questions is 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2026.</p> <p>Questions must be submitted to <a href="mailto:councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk">councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted.</p> <p>Accepted questions and the response to them will be published as a supplement to the agenda papers prior to the meeting. Further information and guidance is available at <a href="http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved">www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved</a></p>		
5.	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>To receive any questions from members of the public.</p>	
6.	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>To receive any questions from councillors.</p>	
7.	<p><b>DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>To provide the committee with the draft annual report covering the work undertaken by the Committee, during the 2025/26 municipal year.</p>	17 - 24
8.	<p><b>APPOINTMENT TO STANDARDS PANEL</b></p> <p>To appoint to the membership of the Standards Panel.</p>	25 - 28
9.	<p><b>UPDATE ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY</b></p> <p>To provide assurance of the adequacy of the council's risk management framework and internal controls in 2025/26.</p>	29 - 42
10.	<p><b>DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26</b></p> <p>To seek the view of the committee as to whether the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2025/26 properly reflects the internal control environment the council is operating in and the appropriateness of actions identified to improve governance arrangements.</p>	43 - 64

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| <b>11. 2025/26 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS</b>  | 65 - 200  |
| To note the draft, unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2025/26.   |           |
| <b>12. INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION 2025/26</b>   | 201 - 230 |
| To present a summary of the work undertaken by Internal Audit during 2025/26 and to give an overall opinion on levels of assurance resulting from this work.  |           |
| Due to the information contained in The Internal Audit Annual Opinion (Appendix A), it is deemed unnecessary to submit a separate quarterly monitoring report. Instead, we have produced a condensed version of the usual report which contains a summary of the work concluded since the last meeting of this Committee. |           |
| <b>13. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER AND MANDATE 2026/27</b>   | 231 - 242 |
| To present to the Audit and Governance Committee the Internal Audit Charter and Mandate 2026/27 for consideration and approval.   |           |
| <b>14. WORK PROGRAMME</b>   | 243 - 246 |
| To consider the committee's work programme (Appendix A).  |           |
| <b>15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>   |           |
| Tuesday 21 July 2026, 2pm.  |           |