

28 January 2025

Our Ref Finance, Audit and Risk Committee 5
February 2025
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Committee Councillors: Sean Nolan (Chair), Vijaiya Poopalasingham (Vice-Chair), Tina Bhartwas, Ruth Brown, Dominic Griffiths, Steven Patmore, Paul Ward and Stewart Willoughby

Substitute Councillors: Cathy Brownjohn, Sam Collins, Nigel Mason, Caroline McDonnell, Ralph Muncer, Claire Strong, Claire Winchester and Daniel Wright-Mason

Independent Member: John Cannon *Non-voting advisory role*

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A
MEETING OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY, SG6 3JF**

On

WEDNESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda Part I

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Members are required to notify any substitutions by midday on the day of the meeting. Late substitutions will not be accepted and Members attending as a substitute without having given the due notice will not be able to take part in the meeting.	
2.	MINUTES 08 JANUARY 2025 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 8 January 2025.	(Pages 5 - 14)
3.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
6.	SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2024-25 REPORT OF THE SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE To receive the Internal Audit Service progress report 2024-25 of the SIAS.	(Pages 15 - 32)

7. **BUDGET 2025/26 (REVENUE BUDGET AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY)** (Pages
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 33 - 108)

To consider the revenue budget and investment strategy for 2025/26.

8. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24** (Pages
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 109 -
276)

To consider the statement of accounts 2023/24.

9. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24 AND ACTION PLAN FOR** (Pages
2024/25 277 -
THE REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITIES MANAGER 294)

For the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee to approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2023/24. The Statement reviews the Council's governance arrangements for the 2023/24 period. The report also presents an update on the action plan which seeks to improve governance arrangements during the 2024/25 financial year.

10. **POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**
The Chair to lead a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings.