MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE

AUDIT AND RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

held on 24 June 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Councillors N. Walsh, C. Adutwim, G. Bonnett, D. Clark, H. Clark, N. Dudley, J. Raven, A. Sosin, S. Rajesh, H. Ayres, I. Fuller, K. Franks, and S. Young.

Also in attendance –

Parish Councillors P. Jackson.
Independent Persons, Mr Groves, Ms Hoeckx, Mr Jeremiah, and Ms Mills

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor S Rajesh be elected as Chair of the joint meeting. At this point Councillor Rajesh took the Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for Absence were received from Parish Councillors K Bentley and M Sismey.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

5. Public Question Time

No questions were asked or statements made.

6. Announcements

No announcements were made.

7. Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The Joint Committee Members considered a report on the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance (Code) and the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (Statement), which the Council's procedures required be approved at a joint meeting of the Audit and Risk and Governance Committees. The Code, which formed part of the Council's ethical framework, showed how it complied with the seven core principles for managing its governance arrangements set out in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)/SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) guidance.

It was shared that there were no substantive changes to the Code itself. Key aspects of the Annual Governance Statement included; the introduction of a mandatory executive summary, a clear fit-for-purpose conclusion and a strengthened forward looking section reflecting future governance challenges such as Local Government Reorganisation.

In response to questions it was shared that:

- Assurance that the Code was being complied with was achieved through a Corporate Governance Group which operated within the Council, comprising a range of senior officers, which met several times a year to review governance arrangements. The Group undertook a detailed assessment of compliance, considered what actions had been completed and identified any areas requiring further attention. It was noted that the Group allowed for different perspectives to be considered, providing a balanced and robust assessment, and that its work formed the basis of reporting to Management Team. Members were also advised that governance arrangements and the Annual Governance Statement were subject to review by the Council's external auditors.
- In response to a question regarding areas identified for improvement, it was shared that these were reflected within the Council's risk management framework and principal risk register which was an active document and reviewed frequently.

RESOLVED that
1. the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance 2025/26 and the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 be approved and;
2. The Draft Annual Governance Statement be published with the statement of accounts.

(7.03pm to 7.12pm)

8. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business brought before the Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm.

Chair