

## MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

held on 11 June 2025 at 7pm

Present:

Councillors H. Ayres, G. Bonnett, H. Clark, N. Dudley, K. Franks, I. Fuller, R. Lee, S. Rajesh, J. Raven, A. Sosin, M. Steel, A. Thompson, and N. Walsh.

Also in attendance –  
Councillor C. Davidson

Parish Councillors K. Golla  
Independent Persons Ms Gosling, Mr Groves, Ms Hoeckx, Mr Jeremiah, and Ms Mills

### 1. Election of Chair

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

### 2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for Absence were received from Parish Councillors K Bentley and P Jackson, and Councillor S Young.

### 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 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 2024/25

The Joint Committee Members considered a report on the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance (Code) and the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 (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.

The Code set out the criteria on which the Statement was based. The Statement in turn examined the measures in place to ensure that the Council had effective governance, risk management and internal control processes and was used to identify any shortcomings in those areas. The Statement highlighted those areas of governance regarded as important in 2024/25, how they were addressed, and the progress made. Members were also advised on the review of actions from the last Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and areas for improvement or monitoring for 2025/26.

The Committee was informed the delay in external audits was a concern but was recognised to be a national issue.

In response to questions, it was shared that assurances were made at corporate governance group and from relevant service managers and this would be reflected in the Draft Annual Governance Statement.

**RESOLVED** that

1. the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance 2024-25 and the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 be approved and;
2. The Draft Annual Governance Statement be published with the statement of accounts.

(7pm to 7.08pm)

8. **Urgent Business**

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

The meeting closed at 7.08pm.

Chair