

Audit and Governance Committee

Date: Monday, 23 February 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum 3)

Gary Suttle (Chair), Spencer Flower (Vice-Chair), Belinda Bawden, Neil Eysenck, Jill Haynes, Andrew Parry, Andy Todd, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway and Chris Kippax

Co-opted Members: S Roach and R Ong.

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact Louis.wicks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

For easy access to all the council's committee agendas and minutes download the free public app called Modern.Gov for use on any iPad, Android, and Windows tablet. Once downloaded select Dorset Council.

Agenda

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. MINUTES	5 - 10
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 12 th of January 2026	
3. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE ACTION TRACKER	11 - 16
To consider the Audit and Governance Action Tracker.	
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.

All submissions must be emailed in full to john.miles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30 am on 18th February 2026.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- A question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

6. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

To note the minutes of the Audit & Governance Hearing Sub-committee (if any meetings have been held).

7. OUR FUTURE COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT

17 - 28

To receive a report by Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director, Transformation, Customer and Cultural Services.

8. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT 2024/25** 29 - 322
- To receive a report by Sean Cremer, Corporate Director, Finance and Commercial.
9. **PERIOD 9 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025/26** 323 - 370
- To receive a report by Sean Cremer, Corporate Director, Finance and Commercial.
10. **WORK PROGRAMME** 371 - 372
- To consider the work programme for the Committee.
11. **URGENT ITEMS**
- To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.
12. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**
- To consider passing the following recommendation:
- Recommendation**
- That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in item(s) No 12a because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.
- The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered. (Any live streaming will end at this juncture).
- Reason for taking the item in private**
- Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- a) Report of Internal Audit Activity - ICT Assurance Mapping - February 2026 373 - 378
- To receive an exempt report by Sally White, Assistant Director SWAP.