

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 12th June, 2025 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: Andrew Blackmore, (Chairman)
County Councillor Tony Easson, (Vice Chairman)

Lay Members: Colin Prosser and Rhodri Guest,
County Councillor: Sara Burch, John Crook, David Jones,
Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Peter Strong and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources
Jan Furtek	Acting Chief Internal Auditor
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Charlotte Owen	Audit Wales Officer
Richard Jones	Performance and Data Insight Manager
Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance
Emma Tapper	Governance & Assurance Officer
Steve Wyndham	Audit Wales Officer
Mike Corcoran	Torfaen Head of Internal Audit
Kathryn Evans	Data Protection and Information Governance Manager
Daniel Francis	Finance Business Partner Corporate
Philippa Green	Head of HR
Sian Hayward	Head of Information Technology and Security and SIRO (Senior Information Risk Owner)

APOLOGIES:

None

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. To note the Action List from the previous meeting.

The Action List from the previous meeting was noted. There were no items outstanding.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVky?si=2nw5BiQFEZwZjfhP>

4. Audit Wales Annual Audit Summary 2024

Audit Wales Officers presented the Monmouthshire Audit Wales Annual Summary 2024. Committee Members were then invited to ask questions:

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https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=Mvo9r16v_l1qoA-&t=1499

This summary report was noted.

5. Audit Wales Counter Fraud Arrangements Review and Management Response

Audit Wales Officers presented the Audit Wales Counter Fraud Arrangements Review. The Management Response was provided by the Acting Chief Internal Auditor. Committee Members were given the opportunity to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=IsMuWJRPLx58P0PM&t=1647>

The Review and Management Response was noted. The completion rate for the mandatory Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery training for all staff was queried. It was agreed to add this point to the Action List/Forward Work Programme in liaison with the Acting Chief Internal Auditor. Updated statistics were requested for a future meeting. [ACTION]

6. Effectiveness of Strategic Risk Assessment Framework

The Performance and Data Insight Manager presented the Effectiveness of Strategic Risk Assessment report. Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=z2HUJodeKAXjMSWy&t=2932>

As per the report recommendations, Members used the assessment to seek assurance about the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements.

7. Draft Freedom of Information, Data Protection Breaches and Data Subject Access Requests

The Head of Information Technology and Security, and Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) and the Data Protection and Information Manager presented a report on Freedom of Information, Data Protection Breaches and Data Subject Access Requests. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=Mre-eZqWHMmwbT5K&t=432>

As contained in the report recommendations, Members scrutinised, reviewed and assessed the Council's arrangements for managing and responding to information requests and breaches and considered the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.

8. SRS Annual Report and Internal Audit Plan - Torfaen Internal Audit Team

Torfaen Head of Internal Audit presented the SRS Annual Report and Internal Audit Plan

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=oWb4t7GERhloXQCX&t=90>

As per the report recommendations, Members noted the overall opinion provided by the Torfaen Head of Internal Audit and the intended coverage for 2025/26.

9. Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25

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The Acting Chief Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25. Following presentation of the report, Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=rMeq7OkIRt4qBaEk&t=3564>

As contained in the report recommendations, the Governance and Audit Committee received, commented on and endorsed the Annual Report.

10. Treasury Outturn Report 2024/25

The Head of Finance and Finance Business Partner Corporate presented the Treasury Outturn Report 2024/25. Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=AVsybpl7-cKdAZf-&t=4633>

As per the report recommendations the Governance & Audit Committee reviewed the results of treasury management activities and the performance achieved in quarter 4 and throughout 2024/25 as part of their delegated responsibility to provide scrutiny of treasury policy, strategy and activity on behalf of Council.

11. Whistleblowing Annual Report

The Head of HR presented the Whistleblowing report. Following presentation of the report, Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=chHKuB9KN3yZVEdC&t=1336>

As per the report recommendations, the Members noted the information contained in the report.

12. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan

The Forward Work Plan was noted.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=SzBZo-sQ66Cx-ksd>

13. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd June 2025.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/84u5cQfkVkY?si=QgEP8ZI0-Hpnzgs4&t=5412>

14. Date of Next Meeting: 24th July 2025 at 2pm

Meeting ended at 3.31 pm