

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 11th September, 2025 at 2.00
pm**

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

Lay Members: Siwan Davies, Colin Prosser and Rhodri Guest

County Councillor: John Crook, Tony Easson, Malcolm Lane,
Phil Murphy, Peter Strong and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources
Jan Furtek	Chief Internal Auditor
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance/Section 151
Emma Tapper	Governance & Assurance Officer, Strategic Operations
Steve Wyndham	Audit Wales Officer
David Jarrett	Finance Business Partner - Corporate Accountant
Nikki Wellington	Finance and Support Services Manager

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Sara Burch and David Jones

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

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:

1. Fraud, Corruption and Anti Bribery- Mandatory Training: The Chief Internal Auditor provided an interim update. [OPEN]

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=QdpWuMSN-1Zxv653&t=77>

4. Internal Audit Quarterly Progress Report (Q1)

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Quarterly Progress Report (Q1). Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to ask questions.

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https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=8xf_tO_uinjZ3sCI&t=143

In line with the report recommendations:

- The Committee noted the audit opinions issued; and
- The Committee noted the progress made by the Section towards meeting the 2025/26 Operational Audit Plan and the Section's performance indicators at the 3 month stage of the financial year which are currently ahead of the profiled target.

ACTION 1. In noting that the My Mates Service had been issued with a Limited Assurance opinion, the Committee requested the attendance of a relevant senior officer at the next meeting to discuss how this situation has arisen and what is being done to address the deficiencies with a view to providing the required level of assurance that matters are being dealt with.

ACTION 2. Referring to the global internal audit standards, a Member asked for an update on how local medium sized businesses are being encouraged to bid for procurement contracts. The Deputy Chief Executive will follow this action up and arrange for a response.

5. Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2024/25

The Chair presented the draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report. Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to comment.

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=QQig9FvtvTw3f7pe&t=823>

The Committee approved the report which will now be considered by County Council.

6. 2024/25 Welsh Church Fund/Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Draft Statements of Accounts

The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer presented the 2024.25 Welsh Church Fund/Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Draft Statements of Accounts to Committee. Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=mWvg-g7lfw5UE7UI&t=892>

As per the report recommendations, the Governance & Audit Committee reviewed the 2024/25 draft Statement of Accounts for the above bodies and provided comments and proposed amendments to consider alongside the external audit process and prior to the final publication.

The Audit Wales Officer was requested to provide an update on the audit of the Council's annual accounts.

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=hyZVqo9wfVehSYm&t=2018>

Referring to the fee consultation, it was the view of the Committee that officers should respond if they choose to do so. If so, it was requested that their response is circulated to the Committee for information.

7. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan

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The Governance and Audit Committee Forward Plan was noted.

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=v6Qj3KxM5sDgMbyP&t=2518>

8. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

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

<https://youtu.be/0ez2ZKT0uM0?si=n-vBNqfuiMhQiQmE&t=2531>

9. Date of Next Meeting: 30th October 2025 at 2.00pm.

Meeting ended at 2.44 pm