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**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 23rd July, 2026 at 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Blackmore (Chair)
County Councillor Tony Easson (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: , Sara Burch, David Jones, Phil Murphy, Peter Strong, Rachel Garrick and Tony Kear

Lay Members: Colin Prosser, Rhodri Guest

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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|---|---|
| Adam Fall | Democratic Services Officer |
| Jan Furtek | Chief Internal Auditor |
| Richard Jones | Performance and Data Insight Manager |
| Nicola Perry | Senior Democracy Officer |
| Jonathan Davies | Head of Finance/Section 151 |
| Steve Wyndham | Audit Wales Officer |

**APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors Ann Webb

1. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

2. **Public Open Forum**

No submissions were received.

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

**Recording:** View Item 3 (2:59)

The Committee noted the Action List. One outstanding action remains in progress and is due for completion in October 2026.

The action list was noted.

4. **SRS Annual Internal Audit Report – Torfaen CBC IA Team**

**Recording:** View Item 4 (3:20)

The Committee received the Annual Internal Audit Report for the Shared Resource Service. Members considered the satisfactory audit opinion, cyber security arrangements and delivery of the audit programme.

**Action:** Arrange a future update from SRS officers regarding cyber security and emerging risks.

**Resolved:** To note the report and audit opinion.

## 5. Monmouthshire County Council Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26

**Recording:** View Item 5 (17:16)

The Head of Finance presented the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2025/26. Members considered the pension fund position, school budget deficits, borrowing levels, reserves and related disclosures. Audit Wales confirmed that audit work was progressing in line with the agreed timetable.

**Actions:**
- Review Gateway Credit Union disclosure wording.
- Review the Gwent County History Association related party disclosure.

**Resolved:** To review and note the Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26.

## 6. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

**Recording:** View Item 6 (57:02)

The Committee received the Draft Annual Governance Statement and noted that governance arrangements were assessed as effective and fit for purpose. Members discussed information governance, organisational change and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

**Action:** Officers to report back regarding the Committee's role in reviewing implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

**Resolved:** To note the Draft Annual Governance Statement.

## 7. Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Update

**Recording:** View Item 7 (01:13:13)

The Committee received an update on progress against Audit Wales recommendations and discussed performance information, value for money arrangements and data maturity.

**Actions:**
- Share information relating to the data maturity assessment.
- Consider including indicative completion dates for ongoing actions.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

## 8. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan

**Recording:** View Item 8 (01:23:01)

The Committee considered and noted the Forward Work Plan.

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## 9. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

**Recording:** View Item 9 (01:23:03)

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

## 10. Date of Next Meeting: 10th September 2026

Noted.

**Meeting ended at 3.24pm**

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