



COTSWOLD
District Council

Monday, 19 January 2026

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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 4.00 pm.**

Jane Portman
Interim Chief Executive

To: Members of the Audit and Governance Committee
(Councillors Nigel Robbins, Helene Mansilla, Nick Bridges, Tony Dale, Jeremy Theyer, Jon Wareing, Len Wilkins and Christopher Bass)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for the Audit and Governance Committee is 3 members.

2. **Substitute Members**

To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 12)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 December 2025.

5. **Public Questions**

To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions or supplementary questions from each member of the public should be no longer than one minute each and relate issues under the Committee's remit.

6. **Member Questions**

To deal with written questions by Members, relating to issues under the Committee's remit, with the maximum length of oral supplementary questions at Committee being no longer than one minute. Responses to any supplementary questions will be dealt with in writing following the meeting.

7. **Audit and Governance Committee Work Plan** (Pages 13 - 14)

Purpose:

For the Committee to review and note its work plan.

8. **Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2026/27** (Pages 15 - 66)

Purpose:

The Council is required to approve a Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy) for 2026/27 prior to 01 April 2026.

This report presents the draft Treasury management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2026/27 (**Annex A**), draft Non-Treasury Investment Strategy (**Annex B**) and

draft Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (**Annex C**). These have been prepared in accordance with

- The CIPFA Prudential Code (2021)
- The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (2021)
- Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) revised statutory guidance on Local Government Investments.

Together they set out the Council's approach to borrowing, investment, cash flow management and prudent capital financing for the year ahead.

9. **Annual Capital Strategy** (Pages 67 - 86)

Purpose:

The Council is required to approve a Capital Strategy for 2026/27 before 01 April 2026.

The Capital Strategy 2026/27 (**Annex A**) is prepared in accordance with CIPFA's "Prudential Code" and the "Treasury Management Code of Practice" (2021 editions), and the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) revised guidance on Local Government Investments.

10. **Information Governance Update & Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Highlight Report 2024/25** (Pages 87 - 98)

Purpose:

To provide the Committee with its first Information Governance & SIRO report, summarising the Council's key actions and progress in reducing information risk and strengthening data and information management controls during the 2024/25 financial year.

11. **2024/25 External Audit Report and Audit Opinion** (Pages 99 - 252)

Purpose:

To update the Committee on the findings of the financial statement external audit of the 2024/25 financial year.

Bishop Fleming anticipates issuing an unqualified audit opinion with no material adjustments required to the financial statements.

12. **Matters exempt from publication**

If the Audit and Governance Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Committee may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

This satisfies:

- Regulation 11 (public interest test)
- s.100A(4) LGA 1972
- Schedule 12A para 7

13. **Cybersecurity Update** (Pages 253 - 260)

This report contains exempt information within the meaning of Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as it contains information relating to the actions taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

The report is therefore not for publication in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.