



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB

Telephone 01453 766321

[www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

Email: [democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk)

22 January 2024

## AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee will be held on **TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **7.00 pm**

Kathy O'Leary  
Chief Executive

**Please Note:** The meeting is being held in the Council Chamber at Stroud District Council and will be streamed live on the Council's [YouTube Channel](#). A recording of the meeting will be published onto the [Council's website](#). The whole of the meeting will be recorded except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of press and public.

If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact [democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk). This is to ensure adequate seating is available in the Council Chamber.

### AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  
To receive declarations of interest.
3. **MINUTES (Pages 3 - 10)**  
To approve the minutes and the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**  
The Chair of the Committee will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS**  
**Noon on Wednesday, 24 January 2023**

Questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and can be sent by email to [Democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk)

5. **MEMBER QUESTIONS**  
See Agenda Item 4 for deadlines for submission.

6. **CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE (Pages 11 - 60)**  
To update the Council's corporate contract management framework following recommendations from the audit report.
7. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (Pages 61 - 78)**  
To inform Members of the External Audit activity progress.
8. **COUNTER FRAUD AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT REPORT (Pages 79 - 82)**  
To provide the Audit and Standards Committee with assurance over the counter fraud activities of the Council in relation to the work undertaken by the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit.
9. **HALF YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2023/24 (Pages 83 - 98)**  
To provide an update on Treasury Management activity as at 30/09/2023.
10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 24/25 (Pages 99 - 134)**  
This report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for 2024/25 – 2026/27 and sets out the treasury strategy for this period. It fulfils three key reports required by the Local Government Act 2003:
  - reporting prudential indicators required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
  - a treasury management strategy in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management;
  - an investment strategy in accordance with the DLUHC investment guidance.

It also fulfils the statutory duty to approve a minimum revenue policy (MRP) statement for 2024/25.
11. **UPDATE ON ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN (Pages 135 - 140)**  
This report gives an update on the areas of focus identified for 2023/34 in the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.
12. **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT (Pages 141 - 162)**  
To inform Members of the Internal Audit activity progress in relation to the approved Internal Audit Plan 2023-24.
13. **STANDING ITEMS**
  - (a) **Corporate Risk Register Update (Pages 163 - 178)**
  - (b) **To consider the Work Programme (Pages 179 - 180)**

#### **Members of Audit and Standards Committee**

#### **Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Chair)**

Councillor Paula Baker  
Councillor Martin Brown  
Councillor Doina Cornell  
Councillor Laurie Davies

#### **Councillor Martin Percy (Vice-Chair)**

Councillor Stephen Davies  
Councillor Christopher Jockel  
Councillor Keith Pearson  
Councillor Ashley Smith