



Audit and Governance Committee

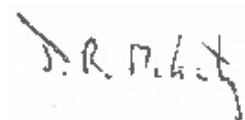
Meeting: Monday, 15th January 2024 at 6.30 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

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| Membership: | Cllrs. Wilson (Chair), Gravells MBE (Vice-Chair), Bowkett, Brooker, Durdey, Morgan, Patel, Sawyer and Mr Peter Tervet |
| Contact: | Democratic and Electoral Services 01452 396127 democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk |

AGENDA

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| 1. | APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence. |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or nonpecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes. |
| 3. | MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023. |
| 4. | PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings or- Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers. To ask a question at this meeting, please submit it to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on Wednesday 10 January 2024 or telephone 01452 396203 for support. |
| 5. | PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings or- Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in |

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| | respect of individual Council Officers. |
| 6. | 2021/22 ACCOUNTS - EXTERNAL AUDIT To receive the report of the Council's external auditors. REPORT TO FOLLOW. |
| 7. | INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24 (Pages 9 - 32) To consider the report of the Head of ARA. Please note that Appendix 2 is exempt from disclosure to the press and public by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information). If Members wish to discuss Appendix 2 the Cabinet will need to resolve to exclude the press and public before doing so. |
| 8. | STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER (Pages 33 - 38) To consider the report of the Head of Audit, Risk and Assurance providing an update on the Strategic Risk Register. |
| 9. | TREASURY MANAGEMENT - QUARTERLY UPDATE To receive the quarterly update of the Head of Finance and Resources. REPORT TO FOLLOW |
| 10. | REVIEWED WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY (Pages 39 - 54) To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer regarding a revised Whistleblowing Policy. |
| 11. | AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 55 - 56) To consider the Committee's Work Programme. |
| 12. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 4 March at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse. |



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date of Publication: Friday, 5 January 2024

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NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

| <u>Interest</u> | <u>Prescribed description</u> |
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| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. |
| Sponsorship | Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. |
| Contracts | Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged |
| Land | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income. |
| Licences | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer. |
| Corporate tenancies | Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest |
| Securities | Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with |

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396203, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

Recording of meetings

Please be aware that meetings may be recorded. There is no requirement for those wishing to record proceedings to notify the Council in advance; however, as a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so is advised to make the Chair aware before the meeting starts.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.