

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the
Audit and Governance Committee

Held in the Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28
INB at 2.30 pm on **Wednesday, 20 May 2026**

PRESENT

Councillors: Nigel Ridpath (Chair), Sandra Simpson (Vice-Chair), Joy Aitman, Edward James, David Melvin, Elizabeth Poskitt, Alex Wilson, Adam Clements, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon and Liam Walker.

Officers: Andrea McCaskie (Director of Governance and Regulatory Services), Madhu Richards (Director of Finance), Phil Martin (Director of Place), Ana Prelici (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Mathew Taylor (Democratic Services Officer) and Anne Learmonth (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Councillors in attendance:

123 Election of Chair

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Carl Rylett, opened the meeting.

The Committee would be comprised of the following Members:

Councillor Nigel Ridpath;

Councillor Adam Clements;

Councillor Dan Levy;

Councillor Elizabeth Poskitt;

Councillor David Melvin;

Councillor Alex Wilson;

Councillor Toby Morris;

Councillor Ed James;

Councillor Sandra Simpson;

Councillor Joy Aitman;

Councillor Andrew Lyon.

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Carl Rylett, requested nominations for the position of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year of 2026/2027.

Councillor Dan Levy nominated Councillor Nigel Ridpath. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Sandra Simpson. There were no other nominations and the vote was carried.

The Audit and Governance Committee Resolved to:

- I. Appoint Councillor Nigel Ridpath to the position of Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year of 2026/2027.

124 Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Nigel Ridpath, requested that the Vice Chair for the Audit and Governance Committee be nominated for the municipal year of 2026/2027.

Councillor Nigel Ridpath nominated Councillor Sandra Simpson. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Joy Aitman. There were no other nominations and the vote was carried.

The Audit and Governance Committee Resolved to:

- I. Appoint Councillor Sandra Simpson to the position of Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year of 2026/2027.

125 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Toby Morris for whom Councillor Liam Walker substituted.

126 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

127 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Nigel Ridpath, proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026 be approved. Upon being seconded the proposal was put to the vote and agreed by the Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee Resolved to:

- I. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026.

128 Appointment of Sub-Committee

The Chair or the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Nigel Ridpath, proposed that Committee agree the appointment of members to the Standards Sub-Committee. Upon being seconded the proposal was put to the vote and agreed by the Committee.

The Audit and Governance Committee Resolved to:

- I. Appoint the following Councillors to the Standards Sub-Committee:
 - Councillor Elizabeth Poskitt;
 - Councillor David Melvin;
 - Councillor Edward James;
 - Councillor Toby Morris;
 - Councillor Joy Aitman;

129 Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme for 2026/27

The Chair or the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Nigel Ridpath, proposed that Committee noted the work plan for the 2026/27 municipal year. Upon being seconded the proposal was put to the vote and agreed by the Committee.

The Audit and Governance Committee Resolved to:

- I. Note the work programme for 2026/27.

130 Date of next Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee would be held on 25 June 2026. This was noted by the Committee.

The Meeting closed at Time Not Specified

CHAIR