



**To: All Members of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

Dear Councillor,

**AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2026 , Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall,  
<https://www.youtube.com/@epsomandewellBC/playlists>**

Please find attached the following document for the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday, 5th February, 2026.

1. **QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** (Pages 3 - 4)

To take any questions or statements from members of the Public.

For further information, please contact [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) or tel: 01372 732000

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sing", written over a circular flourish.

Chief Executive

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## Public Questions

### Written question 1 from Mr P. Jagutpal, resident of the Borough:

*When was the GT Audit received by the Council and why was it published hours before the deadline for public questions?*

### Response from the Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee:

The final Annual Audit report was received by the council on the afternoon of Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The report was published with the agenda on the afternoon of Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. This was the earliest this report could be made public. Democratic Services publish agendas 5 clear working days before the committee meeting. Agenda dispatch timings are set out under the Local Government Act 1972 and there is a legal requirement to make public the agenda for a committee meeting at least 5 clear days prior to the meeting. This does not include weekends, bank holidays, day of publication and day of meeting.

### Written question 2 from Mr P. Jagutpal, resident of the Borough:

*The Audit highlights;*

**Weakness 1: Lack of formal effectiveness review** *The Audit and Scrutiny Committee has not undertaken a formal self-assessment of its effectiveness*

**Weakness 2: Delays in action completion** *Delays in management action on internal audit recommendations are a recurring concern, with several items from 2023/24 still outstanding or only partially implemented*

**Weakness 3: Infrequent fraud reporting** *Fraud reporting to members occurs only annually, which limits visibility of in-year activity and hinders agile governance responses*

*When can the committee expect the results of a **formal effectiveness review** or self-assessment, and what progress has been made on separating the audit and scrutiny functions as recommended by the LGA Peer Challenge?*

### Response from the Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee:

We can confirm that members have decided not to consider splitting the Audit & Scrutiny Committee at this time. This is due to the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation, and it was felt that pursuing structural changes now would not be a good use of resources. In relation to the self-assessment point, we can confirm that this is something we have already progressed and the scope of the assessment is currently being reviewed.

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