

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 17 July 2025 at 7.30 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall

Online access to this meeting is available on YouTube: [Link to online broadcast](#)

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Steven McCormick (Chair)
Councillor Phil Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chris Ames
Councillor Steve Bridger

Councillor Tony Froud
Councillor Alison Kelly
Councillor Jan Mason
Councillor Chris Watson

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. 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, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Public information

Please note that this meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom and will be available to observe live using free YouTube software.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda. A limited number of seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis in the public gallery at the Town Hall. If you wish to observe the meeting from the public gallery, please arrive at the Town Hall reception before the start of the meeting. A member of staff will show you to the seating area. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for this Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chair agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee may wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions and statements from the Public

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for questions and statements from members of the public at meetings of this Committee. Any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough may ask a question or make a statement on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

All questions must consist of one question only and cannot consist of multiple parts. Questions and statements cannot relate to planning or licensing committees matters, the personal affairs of an individual, or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chair are defamatory, offensive, vexatious or frivolous will not be accepted. Each question or statement will be limited to 3 minutes in length.

If you wish to ask a question or make a statement at a meeting of this Committee, please contact Democratic Services at: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services by noon on the fifth working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Thursday 10 July**.

A written copy of statements must be received by Democratic Services by noon on the working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Wednesday 16 July**.

For more information on public speaking protocol at Committees, please see [Annex 4.2](#) of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Operating Framework.

Filming and recording of meetings

The Council allows filming, recording and photography at its public meetings. By entering the Council Chamber and using the public gallery, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

Members of the Press who wish to film, record or photograph a public meeting should contact the Council's Communications team prior to the meeting by email at: communications@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non-handheld devices, including tripods, will not be allowed.

AGENDA

1. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other registrable or non-registrable interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 14)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the **27 March 2025** (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

4. OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 (Pages 15 - 20)

This report provides the annual review of complaints received and decisions made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) between April 2024- and March 2025 inclusive.

5. USE OF URGENT DECISIONS ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 21 - 28)

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation to officers, this report sets out urgent decisions taken by officers in consultation with committee Chairs for the period 3 June 2024 to 3 June 2025.

6. PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT: 2024-25 END OF YEAR REPORT (Pages 29 - 90)

This report provides an update of the council's end of year corporate performance with respect to its 2024-2025 annual plan objectives, key performance indicators, corporate risks, committee risks, and annual governance statement actions.

7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024-2025 (Pages 91 - 116)

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is an important document which provides assurance concerning the council's governance arrangements, both financial and non-financial. It is prepared on an annual basis for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts. This report seeks the Committee's approval of the draft AGS 2024-25.

8. WORK PROGRAMME - JULY 2025 (Pages 117 - 120)

This report presents the Committee with its annual Work Programme.

9. MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORT (Pages 121 - 126)

To receive a report on the management responses to the External Auditor's recommendations.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE – 2024-25 AUDIT PLAN (Pages 127 - 178)

This report presents the External Audit Plan for 2024/25. In accordance with audit regulations, it must be presented to Committee.

11. INTERNAL AUDIT: ANNUAL REPORT & OPINION 2024-2025 (Pages 179 - 206)

The purpose of this paper is to present the Annual Internal Audit Conclusion for 2024/25 (Appendix 1) in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

12. INTERNAL AUDIT: PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 207 - 224)

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of internal audit activity against the assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan (2024-25) and to provide an overview of the status of management actions.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 225 - 226)

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.