

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 16 July 2026 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 Steve Bridger (Chair)
Councillor Phil Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chris Ames
Councillor Christine Cleveland

Councillor Tony Froud
Councillor James Lawrence
Councillor Steven McCormick
Councillor Darren Talbot

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, 9 July 2026**.

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, 15 July 2026**.

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 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 19 March 2026 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

4. PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT: 2025-2026 END OF YEAR REPORT (Pages 13 - 70)

This report provides an overview of the council's performance at the end of the financial year with respect to its ongoing annual plan 2024/25 actions, key performance indicators, corporate risks, committee risks, and annual governance statement actions.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER AND INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE UPDATES (Pages 71 - 80)

This report provides the annual review of complaints received and decisions made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) between April 2025 and March 2026 inclusive, including details of two complaints upheld by the LGO. This report also provides an update on data breaches and the way the council handles data complaints as a result of updated legislation.

6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026 (Pages 81 - 108)

The Annual Governance Statement ("Statement") 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.

7. USE OF URGENT DECISIONS ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 109 - 118)

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 2025 to 10 June 2026. This report also includes an Appendix 2, which sets out the process followed by Urgent Decision 158.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT TRANSPARENCY REPORT (Pages 119 - 124)

This report sets out the Council's approach to improving transparency and lessons learned from prior year external audit findings.

9. WORK PROGRAMME - JULY 2026 (Pages 125 - 130)

This report presents the Committee with its rolling annual Work Programme.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL CONCLUSION AND 2025-26 PLAN (Pages 131 - 162)

The purpose of this paper is to present the Annual Internal Audit Conclusion for 2025-26 (Appendix 1) in accordance with the requirements of the Global Internal Audit Standards.