

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda

Date Thursday 26th March 2026

Time 6.00 pm

Venue J R Clynes Building, Second Floor Room One - Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL

- Notes
1. Declarations of Interest- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. Further information regarding this meeting can be obtained from Constitutional Services, email: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk
 3. Public Questions - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the Audit Committee meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to Constitutional Services by 12.00 noon on Monday, 23rd March 2026.
 4. Filming - The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

Membership of the AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Mr. G. Page (Independent Chair)

Mr. S. Hall (Independent Member and Vice Chair)

Councillors Al-Hamdani, Aslam, Chauhan, Chowhan, Ghafoor, Malik, Quigg, Rustidge and Sykes

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)
To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 14th January 2026 and the actions list arising therefrom.
- 6 External Audit Update (Pages 15 - 30)
A progress update from the Council's External Auditors, Forvis Mazars
- 7 Payroll Audit Action Plan 2024/25 Progress (Pages 31 - 34)
Update report on payroll issues
- 8 Counter Fraud Benchmarking (Pages 35 - 40)
A report of the Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud comparing Oldham's performance, regarding counter fraud activities with other local authorities.
- 9 2026/27 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan (Pages 41 - 58)
A report of the Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud presenting the proposed plan of work for the financial year 2026/27 to enable review by the Committee.
- 10 Quarter 3 - 2026/27, Treasury Management Update (Pages 59 - 78)
A report of the Director of Finance detailing Treasury Management, as at the end of Quarter 3, 2026/27 (31st December 2026).
- 11 Final Accounts - Proposed Accounting Policies and Critical Judgements (Pages 79 - 110)

In line with best practice, approval is sought for the significant accounting policies and critical judgements to be adopted in preparation for the completion of the Statement of Accounts.

- 12 Update on Progress on Audit Reports Contributing Toward the 2024/25 Limited Annual Assurance Opinion (Pages 111 - 162)

A report of the Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud, updating on progress on audit reports contributing toward the 2024/25 Limited annual assurance opinion.

- 13 Internal Audit Charter - 2026/27 (Pages 163 - 176)

A report of the Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud presenting an updated Internal Audit Charter for the financial year 2026/27.

- 14 Audit Committee Work Programme (Pages 177 - 186)

Audit Committee Work Programme for 2025/26 and a proposed programme for the future financial year - 2026/27

- 15 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that discussions may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, under paragraph 3 as defined in the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

- 16 Update on Progress on Audit Reports Contributing Toward the 2024/25 Limited Annual Assurance Opinion (Pages 187 - 194)

Confidential appendix, relating to agenda item 12, above.