

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT 6.50PM BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT ANY MEMBER WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYERS BE IN ATTENDANCE BY NO LATER THAN 6.45PM.

## SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the Jubilee 2 - Dance Studio - (Second Floor) - Brunswick street, Newcastle, Staffs on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022 at 7.00 pm.

#### BUSINESS

7 PUBLICATION OF A PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2022/23 (Pages 3 - 12)

## 10 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 13 - 16)

To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.

- 11 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 17 18)
- 12 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY (Pages 19 20) COMMITTEES

Yours faithfully

Martin 7. Handten

Chief Executive

## NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS

#### 1. **Fire/Bomb Alerts**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs..

Fire exits are to be found at the side of the room leading into Queens Gardens.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the statue of Queen Victoria. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

#### 2. Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

## 3. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Procedure Rule 14 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

# Agenda Item 7

## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

## 23 February 2022

**<u>Report Title:</u>** Publication of a Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Corporate and Service Improvement, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Not Applicable

#### Purpose of the Report

To invite Council to approve its Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23

#### **Recommendation**

That the Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix A to this report be approved.

#### <u>Reasons</u>

To ensure the council complies with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government 'Openness and Accountability in Local Pay'.

#### 1. Background

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 (the Act) requires local authorities to prepare and publish a pay policy statement for each financial year. The statement should set out the authority's policies relating to the remuneration of its chief officers, the remuneration of its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration levels of those two groups.

#### 2. Issues

- 2.1 The statement should set out the authority's policies relating to the remuneration of its chief officers, the remuneration of its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration levels of those two groups.
- 2.2 The government recommends the publication of an organisation's pay multiple, the ratio between the highest paid employee and the median average earnings across the organisation, as a means of illustrating that relationship.
- 2.3 The Council's approach to performance related pay must also be included in the pay policy statement.
- 2.4 The proposed pay policy statement for 2022/23 is set out at Appendix A.

#### 3. Proposal

3.1 That the council approves the content of the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix A, with a view to this being published on the council's website by 31 March 2022.

## 4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

4.1 To ensure that the appropriate information will continue to be made available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

## 5. Options Considered

5.1 The precise format and content of pay policy statements is a matter for each council to determine, so long as the basic requirements as to their content are met. In 2012, West Midlands Councils produced a Model Pay Policy Statement which drew together drafts from several authorities in the region with a view to a common approach being adopted to facilitate benchmarking of pay data. This format was adopted each year subsequently up to and including the current pay policy statement.

## 6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Preparation of a Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 is a requirement under section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.
- 6.2 Under Section 40(1) of the Act, Authorities must have regard to the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in preparing and approving pay policy statements.
- 6.3 Before it takes effect, the Pay Policy Statement must be approved by a resolution of full council. This must be done no later than 31 March 2022.
- 6.4 Following approval, the statement must be published as soon as possible on the authority's website (and in any other manner the authority thinks fit).
- 6.5 An authority may amend its Pay Policy Statement in-year and this also requires a resolution of full council.

#### 7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The council's pay policy statement is simply an annual summary of the content of other policies and the processes through which pay rates are set. Equality considerations are taken into account when devising and applying those other polices and processes.

### 8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 There are no unbudgeted revenue costs or resource implications associated with the approval of the pay policy statement. Changes to pay policy are determined through other processes where all relevant implications are taken into account. The pay policy statement is simply an annual summary statement of the content of those other policies

#### 9. Major Risks

9.1 Not applicable.

## 10. Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

10.1 Not applicable

## 11. Key Decision Information

11.1 The adoption of a pay policy statement is not a Key Decision. Changes to pay policy are determined through other processes where all relevant implications are taken into account, including whether any proposed changes amount to a Key Decision. The pay policy statement is simply an annual summary statement of the content of those other policies.

### 12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 Not Applicable

## 13. List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix A - Proposed Pay Policy Statement for 22/23

## 14. Background Papers

- 14.1. Department of Communities and Local Government Openness and Accountability in local pay: Draft guidance under Section 40 of the Localism Act
- 14.2. Local Government Association and Association of Local Authority Chief Executives Localism Act: Pay Policy Statements Guidance for Local Authority Chief Executives.

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## Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Pay Policy Statement – 2022/23

## Introduction and Purpose

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the council to publish a Pay Policy Statement (the "Statement"). The purpose of the Statement is to set out the council's approach to how its employees are paid.

The Statement must reviewed at least annually, so that full Council can approve, prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March each year, the Statement that will apply in the following financial year. Any in-year amendments to the Statement must also be approved by full Council.

Once approved, the Statement is published and comes into immediate effect.

## Legislative Framework

In deciding how its employees are paid, the council complies with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, the Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

## Pay Structure

The posts of the majority of employees have been assessed using a National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) job evaluation scheme which is supported by both the national trade unions and the council. That scheme evaluates and the requirements, demands and responsibilities of each role and then directly ascribes evaluated roles to a nationally negotiated pay scale. This ensures that there is no pay discrimination and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified.

The NJC pay scale was last increased by an average of 2.75% on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. National bodies are yet to agree any pay award for 2021/22 but once this is agreed, NULBC will apply this across the payscales in line with national guidance.

All other pay related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery and/or as determined by council policy.

In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for all posts, the council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and the times those services are required.

New appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant grade, although this can be varied where necessary to secure the best candidate.

## Appendix A

From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the council will ensure the requirement for a market supplement is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector. Any market supplements awarded are kept under review.

Where the council has been unable to recruit to critical roles under a contract of employment, or there is a short term need it may engage individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through the relevant procurement process ensuring the council is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money in securing the relevant service.

9 officers retain terms and conditions (including salary) from their previous organisation through TUPE regulations.

## Senior Management Pay

For the purposes of this Statement, the council has had regard to the definitions of "Chief Officers" (statutory and non-statutory) and "Deputy Chief Officers" set out in Section 43 of the Localism Act 2011 and Section 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The definition of Chief Officers (statutory and non-statutory) covers the council's:-

- Chief Executive
- Executive Directors
- Section 151 Officer (who might also be an Executive Director)
- Monitoring Officer (who might also be an Executive Director)

The statutory definition of Deputy Chief Officers includes all employees who report directly to Chief Officers, with the exception of secretarial and clerical support roles. However, because of the way some of our departments are structured, there are some employees who are not in secretarial or clerical support roles who do report directly to Chief Officers, but who we do not consider to be Senior Managers for the purposes of this Statement. We have not, therefore, listed those specific posts below.

In reaching this decision, we have had regard to the guidance issued about Pay Policy Statements, which draws on the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 salary publication threshold of £50,000 to identify "senior employees". We also note the content of Government's Transparency Code 2015 on this issue.

Accordingly, for the purposes of this Statement, staff members who are paid less than £50,000 are not considered to be Deputy Chief Officers/Senior Managers for the purposes of this Statement. Those officers are paid in accordance with the JNC pay scale set out in Figure 1.

## Chief Officers

- The Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service). The salary of the post is a spot salary of £108, 762. There is no incremental point range. This does not include payments the Chief Executive may receive as the Council's Returning Officer for elections.
- 2) Executive Directors. There are two Executive Directors; Executive Director of Growth & Development; and Executive Director of Sustainable Environment and Operations. The salaries of these posts fall within a range of 4 incremental points between £87, 582 and £ 93, 426.
- 3) Monitoring Officer. The Council's Head of Legal & Governance Services is designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer. As such this falls within the definition of a Chief Officer role. The Head of Legal & Governance Services is remunerated on the Head of Service (Band 1) scale which has a range of 5 incremental points between £ 55, 120 and £61, 257. The post also currently receives a Market Supplement of £10,000.
- 4) Section 151 Officer. The Council's Section 151 Officer is remunerated on the Head of Service (Band 1) Scale which has a range of 5 incremental points between £ 55, 120 and £61, 257. The post also currently receives a Market Supplement of £6, 000.

## Deputy Chief Officers

- 5) Head of Service (Band 1). There are 7 roles in this category which are identified below. The salaries fall within a range of 5 incremental points between £ 55, 120 and £61, 257.
  - i. Head of Strategy, People and Performance
  - ii. Head of Digital, IT and Internal Transactions (currently vacant)
  - iii. Head of Regulatory Services
  - iv. Head of Sustainable Environment
  - v. Head of Neighbourhood Delivery
  - vi. Head of Planning (currently vacant)
  - vii. Head of Commercial Delivery

## Other Remuneration

The council does not apply any target related bonuses or performance related pay to its senior managers. Progression through the pay increments in a pay scale (where relevant) are subject to satisfactory performance which is assessed on an annual basis.

## Payments on Termination

The council's approach to payments on termination of employment of chief officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within its policy statement in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006. That policy statement is available on the Council's website.

Any other payments falling outside the policy statement relating to termination payments prior to reaching normal retirement age or outside of contractual notice periods shall, where those payments exceed £100,000, be authorised by a resolution of full Council. This is without prejudice to the urgency provisions which are set out in the Council's constitution.

## Flexible Retirement

The council's policy on Flexible Retirement for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme is available on the Council's website

## Publication

Upon approval by the full council, this statement will be published on the council's Website, alongside data required under the Transparency Code 2015.

In addition, for posts where the full time equivalent salary is at least £50,000, the council's Annual Statement of Accounts will include a note setting out the total amount of:

- salary, fees or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any bonuses so paid or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax;
- any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination;
- any benefits received that do not fall within the above

## Lowest Paid Employees

The lowest paid persons employed under a contract of employment with the council are employed on full time (37 hours) equivalent salaries in accordance with the National Living Wage. No employee is paid under the National Living Wage hourly rate of  $\pounds$ 8.91 (for those age 23 and over)

The council employs apprentices who are not included within the definition of 'lowest paid employees' as they are employed under the National Apprenticeship Scheme.

## Appendix A

Government's Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency recommends the publication of the ratio between highest paid salary and the median average salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

The current pay levels within the council give a multiple between the lowest paid (full time equivalent salary) employee and:-

- the Chief Executive as 1:6.32
- the average Chief Officer (excluding the Chief Executive, but including deputy chief officers) as 1:3.96

The multiple between:-

- the median (average) full time equivalent earnings and the Chief Executive is 1:4.44
- the median (average) full time equivalent earnings and average chief officer as 1:2.78

## Date of Statement: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Appendix A

## <u>Figure 1</u>

## NJC SALARY SCALES FROM 01.04.2021

GRADE	SCP	SALARY £	Hourly Rates
	1	17,842	9.24796
Grade 2	2	18,198	9.43248
	3	18,562	9.62115
Grade 3	4	18,933	9.81345
Grade 4	5	19,312	10.00989
	6	19,698	10.20997
Grade 5	7	20,092	10.41419
	8	20,493	10.62204
	9	20,903	10.83455
	10	21,322	11.05173
	11	21,748	11.27253
	12	22,183	11.49801
	13	23,080	11.96294
	14	23,541	12.20189
	15	24,012	12.44602
Grade 6	16	24,491	12.69430
	17	24,982	12.94880
	18	25,481	13.20744
	19	25,991	13.47179
Grade 7	20	26,511	13.74132
	21	27,041	14.01603
Grade 8	22	27,741	14.37886
	23	28,672	14.86142
	24	29,577	15.33050
	25	30,451	15.78352
Grade 9	26	31,346	16.24742
	27	32,234	16.70769
	28	32,910	17.05808
	29	33,782	17.51006
	30	34,728	18.00039
Grade 10	31	35,745	18.52753
	32	36,922	19.13760
	33	37,890	19.63934
Grade 11	34	38,890	20.15766
	35	39,880	20.67081
	36	40,876	21.18706
Grade 12	37	41,881	21.70797
	38	42,821	22.19520
	39	43,857	22.73219
	40	44,863	23.25362
Grade 13	41	45,859	23.76987
	42	46,845	24.28094
	43	47,838	24.79564
	44	48,858	25.32433
Grade 14	45	49,901	25.86494



## STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL - 23RD FEBRUARY 2022

Submitted by: Councillor Simon Tagg

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

#### Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

#### **Recommendation**

#### That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

#### <u>Reasons</u>

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Leader and Cabinet and to allow questions and comments to be made on the Statement.

#### 1. Cabinet Meetings

A selection of decision and actions of Cabinet since the last Leader's Statement are detailed below.

#### 2. Delivery of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF)

Cabinet has endorsed key parts of the FHSF plans for the Ryecroft which will include a new office headquarters, town centre living accommodation for older people, a replacement multi-story car park, and public open spaces.

Work began late last year on the demolition of the former Civic Offices to make way for the long-awaited redevelopment in the town centre.

Cabinet also agreed to acquire the York Place shopping arcade to enable the retail offer that links Ryecroft to the rest of the town centre to be reinvigorated.

#### 3. Market Award

The resurgence of Newcastle's historic market continues. The monthly Artisan Market has been awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) awards. Congratulations to the markets staff and all those stallholders who work so hard to make the event markets an attraction for shoppers, residents and families.

Cabinet received a report in January that outlined future aspiration for the market including rolling out of more themed markets, continuation of the new traders £5 a stall discount and use of the Future High Street funding to further improve the market experience for visitors including a market, leisure and performance space to accommodate specialist events

#### 4. New owner of the Sky Building

The Council is pressing for confirmation of when construction works will restart at the Sky Building and has requested immediate improvements in site safety, security and tidiness now that the site is under new ownership.

I have written to the new owner to ask that longstanding community concerns are urgently addressed

The Sky Building is a multi-storey student flats complex situated on the former Jubilee Baths site which was sold by the previous administration at Council in 2015. It should have opened in 2017 but work ground to a halt and there has since been a succession of legal issues surrounding ownership and investment.

It's my intention to share the developer's plans and timescales with residents and businesses as soon as I receive a response.

#### 5. Borough Local Plan Consultation

The consultation on the Issues and Options stage of the Borough Local Plan has now been completed. A total of 13 public consultation events, including 3 virtual events, have been completed, despite the challenges of running Covid secure engagements. It should be noted that many Councils have run online only consultation for their local plan including Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

The consultation took place over 14 weeks in total, over double the length set in the Statement of Community Involvement, affording people good time to consider the material produced and to submit comments.

As well as welcoming written representations from consultees from the start, the Council has used a market-leading consultation tool for Local Plans, which provides a secure and efficient way to store and process comments made.

I would like to thank the Council's Planning Policy team for their work and engagement with the public during this process.

There are two further rounds of consultation included within the project plan for the Local Plan, so by the end of the process the public will have had three distinct formal opportunities to engage with the plan and provide comments to the Council.

Misinformation has circulated on social media about the validity of consultation, and it is disappointing that some Members of the Council have also spread this misinformation.

#### 6. Refurbishment of Kidsgrove Sports Centre

As the £7.5millon refurbishment of Kidsgrove Sports Centre reaches its final phase, the Council has now entered into a 25-year lease with Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group (CIO), enabling it to operate the centre which includes a 25m, six lane swimming pool; reception area, sports hall, enlarged gym, dance studio, spin studio and physio room and updated changing areas.

The CIO are finalising their plans to run the centre with the aim of opening to the public in summer 2022.

#### 7. Improvements to Westlands Sports Centre and Wolstanton Park Tennis Courts

Cabinet has endorsed a bid to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for grant funding to upgrade Westlands Sports Centre and Wolstanton Park tennis courts. The LTA has identified Newcastle as one of their priority areas to increase participation in tennis and the Council has been working closely with them to identify opportunities for innovative improvements and enhanced access to the sport for residents.

The LTA have in principle agreed a grant of  $\pounds$ 133,700 which will be supplemented by  $\pounds$ 30,000 from the Council's capital programme for renovation of the courts, installation of a booking system and an ongoing promotion package. Use of both facilities will remain free to the public.

#### 8. Chatterley Valley

More than 1,700 jobs are set to be created, and £60million in private sector investment brought into the borough, by the expansion of the Ceramic Valley Enterprise Zone at Chatterley Valley. The site is located just over a mile from Kidsgrove town centre and Cabinet approved £3.7millon funding via the Kidsgrove Town Deal monies which will enable vital infrastructure to allow the huge project to commence.

#### 9. Community Renewal Fund

The Council has been successful in a £235,000 bid to the Government's Community Renewal Fund for three projects associated with the Sustainable Environment Strategy: put together a business case for a solar generation project in the Borough, convert the Council's streetlight stock to Smart LED energy efficient lighting and explore options to replace fossil fuel heating system in community centres, sporting complexes and the Almshouses.

#### 10. Urban Tree Planting

A further phase of tree planting is currently under way as part of Urban Tee Planting Strategy, this will be an area the size of ten football pitches planted by spring 2023.

Cabinet has designated 60 areas of Council-owned green space in the urban areas of the borough as Urban Carbon Capture Areas (UCCAs). These areas will be protected in the Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategy and will be put forward for designation in the developing Local Plan. UCCA's will be safeguarded for future generations and for tree and shrub planting, meadow and species rich grassland creation.

#### 11. Recognition for Bereavement Service and Street Cleaning Service

The Council's Cemetery and Crematorium Services has been declared Most Improved Performers in the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) national awards, winning their category, and the Street Cleansing Services were finalists in theirs, making the service part of the top eight in the UK.

This national recognition for our teams shows the quality of the service that is being provided to residents, especially during the coronavirus pandemic with the additional challenges which that has presented to frontline services areas.

#### 12. Guildhall renovation & Brampton Museum extension

Two of the Borough's most historic and best loved buildings are back open to the public after receiving welcome renovations.

The Guildhall has a new-look reception and two new meeting rooms, redecorated walls and updated carpets making it more suitable for multiple use by organisations.

The Borough Museum now boasts a new gallery, event spaces, café and shop as part of  $\pounds 654,000$  extension works completed just before Christmas.

### 13. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan can be found at:-

https://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=118&RD=0

Councillor Simon Tagg Leader of the Council

# Agenda Item 11

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

## Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee

One scrutiny meeting has been held since the last meeting of the Full Council, this was on the 17th December 2021

Due to the BID manager being off sick, and the extension of the Public Consultation of the Borough Local Plan - these agenda items could not be heard and have therefore been deferred to the next scheduled meeting on 17 March, 2022.

The December meeting was therefore updated on both Town Deal Project and the Future High Street Fund.

Cllr Gary White Chair

## Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 29 November 2021 and the following matters were considered:

- Ben Adams, Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner for Staffordshire was welcomed to the meeting. He outlined the key points of his Police and Crime Plan, and Fire & Rescue Plan 2021 – 24; and the Committee was invited to ask questions.
- Meeting with the Clinical Commissioning Group the Committee received notes from the regular meeting between the Chair & Vice Chair, officers and Tracey Shewan of the CCG. The meeting had discussed the current situation with Covid including hospital numbers and the vaccine uptake.
- Reports from recent meetings of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel
- The Digests outlining the work of recent meetings of the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Work Programme was discussed and the Committee agreed that the next meeting would include a report on the Newcastle Housing Advice Service to consider the service now it had been brought back in-house and a report on the SPACE programme.

Cllr Ian Wilkes Chair

## Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee

The committee met on 20 January to perform pre-cabinet scrutiny of the revenue and capital budget, and associated strategies, plus the scale of fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year. The committee will meet again on 24 March.

Cllr Mark Holland Chair This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 12

## **REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS**

## Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Andrew Smith of Grant Thornton presented their Annual Audit Letter to members and advised that the audit had gone well with steady improvements to working papers. Covid had continued to present challenges, but overall, Grant Thornton had found no serious issues. They provided four Improvement Recommendations and felt that a return to the normal levels of Internal Audit would be welcome. There were no issues relating to value for money or sustainability and was felt that generally, the Borough compared favourably with other similar councils.

Members considered the Internal Audit Update for Quarter 3 introduced by Clare Potts. It was noted that the main area of concern was around GDPR, but that this was a complex issue with which many other bodies were suffering similar problems, and that since the Audit had been carried out, many of the issues had been resolved.

The appointment of Auditors for the five year period from 23/24 was now discussed and although some members felt that the additional cost of using the PSAA was not ideal, it was generally felt it was impractical for the Council to go it alone and was likely achieve greater value for money and protection by using it again.

Craig Turner introduced the Quarter 3 Risk Management Report and it was decided that the risks for greater-depth scrutiny, for the next meeting would be Cyber risk and Data Breach. The Work Plan for the April meeting was amended to include the 2021/22 Audit Plan.

Cllr Paul Waring Chair

## Licensing and Public Protection Committee

Since the last Full Council meeting there has been one main Licensing and Public Protection Committee which was held on Tuesday, 15th of February 2022.

In this meeting it was ratified to implement the proposed charges for taxi fares for the year, tax conditionality checks and new driver license criteria was also reviewed and agreed.

There have been several sub-committees held since the last Full Council meeting and the Minutes made available to the main committee.

Cllr Simon White Chair

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