

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

### **Audit and Standards Committee**

The Committee met on 14th November 2022.

The first substantive item of business was to receive and approve the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and to receive the Audit Findings Report relating to the Accounts. Andrew Smith of Grant Thornton described the audit work carried out, noting that although the audit was substantially complete, there was still some work left to be done in relation to value for money analysis. There had been no issues of any significance to raise with the Audit Committee other than the items on the report which were of a relatively minor nature, and a number of these had been addressed since the Audit commenced. Members asked a number of questions, which were answered by the Officers and the Auditors. The Committee resolved to approve the Audited Accounts.

The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2022/23 was then reviewed by Members, where it was noted that due to the various Government investments, the Council currently holds significant amounts of cash. The majority of this is held on short-term deposit with DMADF/DMO, which is felt to be the safest place in the current economic climate. It was confirmed that the Council is currently well within its operational limits in all areas.

Clare Potts, Chief Internal Auditor, then presented the Internal Audit Update Quarter 2, 2022/23, detailing the internal audit work done so far during this year and the outcomes to date. Members agreed to receive the report.

Discussion then turned to the Audit Plan, and the Chair voiced his concerns about the difficulties many Members face when reading risk reports. Some time ago in an attempt to improve understanding, at most meetings, more detailed information would be provided for one or more risk areas. However, it was felt that this process required modification, in order to properly enhance Members' understanding. It was agreed that the Chair and Officers would take a further look at the process and see how it might be improved, prior to the next meeting, in readiness for further discussion by the Committee.

Cllr Paul Waring  
Chair

### **Planning Committee**

The committee has met twice since the last full Council meeting; on the 11th of October and 8th of November 2022

The 11th of October heard deliberations from the committee and this revolved the first substantive item on the agenda ;

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - BALDWINS GATE FARM, NEWCASTLE ROAD, BALDWINS GATE. RICHBOROUGH ESTATES. 21/01041/OUT PDF 514 KB](#)

There ensued a lengthy debate and there were several speakers that both supported and objected to the application. The debate centred mainly on the potential harm to the countryside and the relevance to the local NDP policies that the site had sustainability issues such as the limited public transport and an over reliance on the use of a car, the loss of most versatile agricultural land and harm to the character and appearance of the countryside. Members of the committee put forward that NULBC has a healthy 5YLS and thus, policies, even though some were not recent, still held some weighting in determining this application particularly the NDP policies of NE1 and HG1.

The Committee did not agree with the officer's recommendation to permit this application and following the lengthy debate, unanimously voted in favour of refusal.

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - LAND OFF CROSS STREET, CHESTERTON. DURATA DEVELOPMENT LTD. 22/00012/REM](#)

This reserved matters application was permitted by the committee subject to conditions in the report.

There was a third substantive item on the agenda related to [APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - PARK HILL FARM, PARK LANE. MRS PAT PIMLOTT. 22/00214/FUL PDF 239 K](#)

During this application, the Chair moved an extension of the meeting until 10.30pm. This was unanimously agreed.

Following a lengthy debate, Members felt that there was insufficient information to determine the application and voted in favour of a deferral.

Other items included an item from HS2 which included earthworks to provide bunds required to support associated works on site on land to the northwest of Bower End Farm.

[APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND NORTH WEST OF BOWER END FARM, MADELEY. HIGH SPEED TWO \(HS2\) LIMITED. 22/00747/SCH17](#)

The committee resolved that the Schedule 17 application be permitted subject to the condition and carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

The committee also received updates relating to reports of the enforcement items of Boggs Cottages, Keele and Doddlespool, Betley.

The meeting concluded at 10.09pm.

8th of November Meeting.

The meeting on the 8th of November was totally different to the last meeting. The first major item on the agenda> The committee considered an application that was seeking to remove condition 21 of a previous approved decision

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - LAND NORTH OF PEPPER STREET, KEELE. SEDDON HOMES. 22/00094/FUL](#)

A deferral was agreed, members felt that removing the condition was not appropriate in this instance and a variation was required so it was deferred to enable officers, in liaison with Environmental Health colleagues, to advise Members of appropriate wording for a variation to Condition 21.

The next debate focused on Section 106 arrangements

[LAND SOUTH OF HONEYWALL LANE, MADELEY HEATH. MR CHRIS ANDREWS. 20/00972/DOB](#)

A local ward Cllr spoke in favour of the proposal.

Committee members held a brief debate and finalised a unanimous conclusion to approve and go with recommendations laid out in the report in modifying the s106 agreement.

A request was made after the debate from a Committee member for Committee Members to receive guidance or training on Section 106 Agreements in the future.

There was a substantial item that was withdrawn

[APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND AT STATION ROAD, ONNELEY. MR J FINNEY. 22/00245/FUL](#)

The evening's agenda concluded with one item of Urgent Business.

### URGENT BUSINESS

it was agreed by members that this would be heard in closed session to provide members with a more detailed progress report and protect the interests of parties linked to this. The information was received.

Cllr Paul Northcott  
Chair

## **Licensing and Public Protection Committee**

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee has met once since the last Full Council meeting, on 18th October.

In this meeting Members received updates on the following:

- Business and Planning Act 2020, relating to the relaxations in respect of pavement licences and alcohol off-sales.
- Public Space Protection Order - Public Consultation on Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park PSPO's.
- Results of three Taxi Licensing appeals, all of which were dismissed.

Members noted and approved those updates.

The Committee also discussed the following:

- Food Safety Service Plan 2022/23 and Review of Performance in 2021/22
- Public Protection Sub-Committee Programme
- Proposed Amendments to Taxi Licensing Policy 2021-2025

Members agreed and approved the recommendations in those reports

The Licensing Sub-Committee and Public Protection Sub-Committee have not met since the last Full Council meeting.

Minutes for the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 8th August and the Public Protection Sub-Committee held on 10th August were made available to the main Committee.

Councillor Andrew Parker  
Chair