

REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on the 24th October 2023 and the following items were discussed and considered:

The Committee received Licensing reports for:

- Fees to be charged for the Licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling & Sexual Entertainment Venue 2024-25
- Gambling Act 2005 Consultation: Measures Relating to the Land Based Gambling Sector
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Members noted the contents of both Licensing reports

The Committee then received Public Protection reports for:

- Public Space Protection Order-Parks and Open Spaces
- Clean Air Act 1993-Consultation on the Revocation of Existing Smoke Control Areas and Declaration of a New Borough Wide Smoke Control Area
- Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Fees & Charges 2024/2025
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The committee agreed and noted the recommendations that were set out in the Public Protection reports

There has been one Licensing sub-committee and two Public Protection sub-committee meetings since the last Full Council meeting and the minutes will be made available at the next main Licensing and Public Protection Committee meeting

Cllr Andrew Parker
Chair

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on 28th September and 13th November 2023.

28th September meeting

Members were asked to review the Corporate Risk Management Report and noted the overdue risks, together with the increased-level risks. It was agreed that risks relating to the Sky building would be looked at in more detail at the next meeting. John Benbow then presented the Internal Audit Update Q1 2023/4 detailing the progress made to date in relation the internal audit.

Andrew Smith of Grant Thornton presented the final accounts for the financial year 2022/23 and the audit findings report for the same period. It was noted that there was a still work to done in relation to pensions as the report from Staffordshire Pension Fund had yet to be received, but there was only one audit recommendation. Members were informed that the audit had gone well and the working papers had been to a very high standard. Officers were thanked for their efforts and congratulated on the quality of the work presented.

Members resolved to give the Service Director for Finance and the Chair delegated authority to sign off the Statement of Accounts, following completion of the Staffordshire Pension Fund Audit and receipt of the report.

The Chair informed members that it may be necessary to move a future meeting to accommodate receipt of the value for money report from the auditors, when it is complete.

13th November meeting

The first substantive item on the agenda was the Treasury Management Half yearly report for the period to 30th September. Members were pleased to note that no borrowing had yet taken place during the year and it is currently anticipated that no external borrowing will be required for the rest of the financial year. The council is and will remain within its operating guidelines and will benefit from significant interest income.

Our new Service Director for Legal and Governance presented the Q2 Corporate Risk Management report and members were asked to note a number of pieces of information. There have been no risk level increases and there are no risks more than 6 months overdue for review.

Clare Potts then introduced the Q2 Internal Audit Progress Report. It was noted that a number of audits were in progress at the end of the quarter, but that these had since been completed, but of the three audits completed during the quarter, two had been classified as good and the other, satisfactory (positive result).

Cllr Paul Waring
Chair