

Regulatory Committee's Chairs' reports

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has met twice since the last Full Council on the 25th of September, namely the **8th October** and the **5th of November**

The following items were considered:

8th October:

- BALDWINS GATE FARM, NEWCASTLE ROAD, BALDWIN'S GATE: BELLWAY HOMES LIMITED 24/00313/REM
- NEW FARM, ALSAGER ROAD, AUDLEY MANOR VIEW CARE HOME LTD 23/00522/FUL
- BOGGS COTTAGE, KEELE, Reference 14/00036/207C3
- One item of **Urgent Business** included:
LAND NORTH OF MUCKLESTONE WOOD LANE AND EAST OF ROCK LANE LOGGERHEADS. 23/00002/OUT

5th November:

- UNITS 1 AND 2, BRICK KILN LANE, CHESTERTON 24/00617/FUL
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
- OPEN MARKET, HIGH STREET, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL 24/00336/DEEM3
- Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund
The Crossways (Flats 1-3) 36 Ironmarket, Newcastle ST5 1RP (Ref: 24/25004/HBG)
- LAND AT DODDLESPPOOL, BETLEY reference 17/00186/207C2

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on 29 October:

At the meeting Members, received the following Licensing reports:

- FEES AND CHARGES FOR VENUE LICENSING 2025-26
- GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING POLICY)

The Committee discussed a number of aspects of the reports and agreed to the proposed recommendations that were set out in those reports.

The Committee also received the following Public Protection reports:

- PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER –CAR CRUISING CONSULTATION RESULTS
- PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES AND CHARGES 2025-26
- TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY 2025-2030

Members had a brief discussion on those reports and the Committee agreed that the consultations regarding the proposed fees and charges and the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy, be carried out.

Since the last Full Council meeting the Licensing Sub Committee has met twice and the Public Protection Sub Committee has met once.

The minutes for the Licensing Sub Committees held on 27th September and 9th October and the minutes of the Public Protection Sub Committee held on 9th October, 2024 were received and noted as correct records

Cllr Joan Whieldon

Chair

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on two occasions:

30th September 2024

Richard Lee, Director and Robert Fenton, Senior Manager at KPMG presented their report on the Statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024. It was noted that there were still a few areas of work to be completed, but to date no major areas of concern had been identified. It was resolved to give delegated power to the Service Director for Finance and the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee to sign off the Statement of Accounts when the audit is completed. Also to receive the Audit Findings Report for the 2023/4 Financial Year.

The Health and Safety Annual Report 2023/4 was presented to Members and the Committee resolved to receive it.

The Monitoring Officer presented the Corporate Risk Management Report for Q1 2024/5 and it was noted that there were currently 3 risks that were overdue for a review at 30th June, but there had been no risk level increases or changes to the Corporate Risk register. Members were asked to note that mitigating a risk may not necessarily remove the risk and forward any requests for detailed risk analysis to the chair.

Staffs County Council Internal Audit Team briefly detailed their progress as new Internal Auditors and confirmed that the transition had been smooth. More information would be available at a later date when the team was further in to its programme.

4th November 2024

The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) presented the Corporate Risk Management report for Q2, 2024/5. It was noted that three risk levels had been increased during the quarter, but that there were no risks more than 6 months overdue for review.

Members were presented with the internal Audit update, Q2 2024/5 by the Internal Auditor which detailed steady progress for the year to date.

It was noted that the Treasury Management Report Half Yearly Report 2024/5 format had been heavily revised compared to previous reports, in order to aid members' understanding and this was much appreciated. The Director of Finance presented the report and explained that there is currently no borrowing and the council is still able to generate significant interest income. However, it was possible that borrowing may be required as the Town Deal and other government funded projects neared completion.

It was agreed that the External Audit of the 2023/4 Statement of Accounts be brought back to the Committee for an official sign-off in February.

Paul Waring

Chair