

Regulatory Committee's Chairs' reports

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on two occasions:

29th September 2025.

The first substantive item on the agenda was the Health and Safety Annual report 2024/25, presented to the committee by Georgina Evans-Stadward. It was noted that there had been a slight increase in accidents reported, but this was felt to be as a result of natural fluctuations and the policy of encouraging more rigorous reporting of issues.

Members then turned their attention to the Q1 Internal Audit progress report. Alex explained that it was normal for activity to be lower in the first quarter as IA would be more heavily involved in compliance, relating to the external audits. Progress would catch up later in the year, but based on the work done to date, it was felt that progress to date was in line with expectations.

Anthony Harold then introduced the Q1 Corporate Risk Management Report 2025/26. Members were asked to note that there are currently no risks that are more than 6 months overdue for a review up to end of Q1 2025/26, and that there have been no risk level increases, but there have been 2 new risks added.

Richard Lee and Rob Fenton from KPMG updated members on the progress of the Audit of the 2024/5 accounts, to date. It was noted that the Audit was almost complete and that there had been no issues of significant concern. There were some differences of opinion, for instance, relating to property and pension fund values, which are items of significant value, but this is primarily due to slight differences of opinion on the part of the professional valuers used by the different parties. Overall, the working papers and statements were felt to be of a high standard and the accounts team were thanked for their efforts.

10th November 2025.

Apologies were accepted from Paul Waring, who was unable to attend, due to family commitments, overseas. The Vice Chair, Gill Burnett Faulkner, took the Chair.

The first substantive item on the agenda related to various 2024/5 year-end reports and the Deputy Leader / Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, introduced reports on the final Statement of Accounts, External Audit Annual Report and Audit Findings Report for the financial year 2024-25. A number of questions raised by members, were answered by the S151 and Monitoring Officers.

Members resolved that the reports be received and that it would be in order for the Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) to issue the letter of representation.

The Deputy Leader / Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, then introduced the Treasury Management Half Yearly Report, in line with the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by full Council in February 2025, and as recommended by the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice. The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) advised that in the medium term, the Council would need to borrow externally, but that it would also use internal borrowing to mitigate those costs. Members resolved to receive the report.

The Service Director for Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) introduced the Corporate Risk Management Report for quarter 2. Members resolved to note: that there are currently no risks more than 6 months overdue for a review up to end of Q2 2025/26, that there had been no risk level increases, that 5 new risks had been added, the Corporate Risk Register profile, and that whilst the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigated, the likely impacts may not change.

The Audit Manager (Staffordshire County Council) presented the update report on the Internal Audit Progress for quarter 2. Members resolved that the progress against the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan be noted and that the progress on the implementation of audit recommendations be noted.

Paul Waring
Chair

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee met on 14 January, 2026.

The following items were considered:

- Baldwins Gate Farm, Newcastle Road, Baldwins Gate. 25/00661/FUL
- Vehicle Storage Land, Linley Road, Talke. 25/00799/FUL.
- Farcroft, Manor Road, Baldwins Gate. 25/00751/OUT
- 15,17,19,29,31,35 and 37 Merrial Street, Newcastle. 25/00805/DEEM3.
- Land Rear of 57 High Street, Alsagers Bank. 25/00851/PIP
- 5 Boggs Cottage, Keele 14/00036/207C3.

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on 13th January, 2026.

At the meeting Members, received the following Licensing Report:

- Relaxation of Licensing Hours for the 2026 Men's FIFA World Cup

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

The following Public Protection reports were also considered:

- Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) Regulations 2024
- Government Consultations responded to in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Portfolio Holder
- Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Fees and Charges 2026/2027

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

The Public Protection Sub Committee met on two occasions; 12th November and 9th December, 2025.

The minutes for the Sub Committees were received and noted as correct records

Cllr Joan Whieldon
Chair