

## **Regulatory Committee's Chairs' reports**

### **Audit and Standards Committee**

#### **The Committee met on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.**

The minutes of the previous meeting (10<sup>th</sup> November 2025) were agreed as a true and accurate record.

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the report of internal audit progress for 2025/6, to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. It was noted that two further audits had been completed since and were with the Audit Manager. Members noted the progress of the audit plan and implementation of audit recommendations.

The Q3 Corporate Risk Management report was now presented by the Service Director for Legal and Governance. Members noted that there were currently no risks more than 6 months overdue, 2 new risks, 1 risk level increase and that although the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigated, the likely impacts may not necessarily change. Members did not require further scrutiny of any particular risks.

The Chair thanked members and officers for their attendance and contributions.

#### **The Committee met on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Alex Cannon, ICT Audit Manager, introduced the Internal Audit Charter 2026/7. Members endorsed the charter and authorised myself as Chair, to sign the charter in conjunction with the Chief Audit Executive and senior management.

Alex now introduced the Proposed Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2026/7, setting out the proposed areas of work and the reasons for targeting particular areas of council business. Members agreed to approve the plan, in accordance with the committee's terms of reference and to receive quarterly updates of progress made to date.

Craig Turner, Service Director for Finance and S151 Officer, updated members in relation to counter fraud arrangements, discussing the various strategies and controls in place to mitigate the occurrence and effects of fraud. Members noted the updated policies as follows:

1. Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework,
2. Fraud Response Plan

### 3. Whistleblowing Policy

### 4. Anti-Money Laundering Policy

Members were now presented with the Risk Management Policy and Strategy, 2026/7, for review by the committee. It was agreed that the policy and strategy be accepted for signature by Chief Executive and Leader of the council.

Robert Fenton, Senior Manager, KPMG, detailed the Audit Plan and Strategy in relation to the 2025/6 Statement of Accounts. The document described the areas of focus that would be targeted during the audit, levels of materiality, timings and likely costs associated with the audit. Members agreed to receive the report and wished the team well with the forthcoming work.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the various meetings over the past years and for actively participating in the meetings and conducting themselves in a polite and friendly manner. He thanked the officers for their efforts in producing reports to a high standard and their helpfulness, patience and politeness when dealing with members.

The Chair was not, himself, standing for election, but wished those who were, the best of luck in the forthcoming election.

Paul Waring

Chair of Audit and Standards Committee.

### **The Committee met on 29 June, 2026**

Six reports were considered and the recommendations were accepted:

- PROPOSED ACCOUNTING POLICIES & SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY 2025/26
- DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2025/26
- ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26
- INTERNAL AUDIT OUTTURN REPORT 2025/26
- TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26
- CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT Q4 2025/26
- The WORK PROGRAMME was also considered

Cllr Glenn Tift

Chair

## **Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee met on 3 February, 3 March, 31 March, 28 April and 23 June, 2026.

The following items were considered:

3 February:

- Land rear of 57 High Street, Alsager's Bank 25/00851/PIP
- Land off Wereton Road, Audley 25/00883/PIP
- Land at Doddlespool, Betley. 17/00186/2307C2.

3 March:

- Land between Apedale Road and Palatine Drive, Chesterton. 26/00014/FUL
- Land at Vernon Avenue, Audley 26/00026/PIP
- Public Realm and Car Park to East and West of King Street, Kidsgrove. 26/00024/DEEM3
- 5 Boggs Cottages, Keele. 14/00036/207C3

31 March:

- Public Realm and Car Park to East and West of King Street, Kidsgrove. 26/00024/DEEM3
- Crown Inn, Brook Street, Silverdale. 26/00022/FUL
- Land at Doddlespool, Betley. 17/00186/2307C2.

28 April:

- Chatterley Valley Development Site, Peacock Hay Road, Chesterton. 25/00907/FUL
- Baldwins Gate Farm, Newcastle Road, Baldwins Gate. 26/00068/FUL
- Crown Inn, Brook Street, Silverdale. 26/00022/FUL
- Land Adjacent Fairgreen Road, Baldwins Gate. 26/00192/FUL
- 5 Boggs Cottages, Keele. 14/00036/207C3

Cllr Paul Northcott  
Chair

**The Committee met on 23 June, 2026.**

The following items were considered:

- Weston Meres Farm, Maer. 25/00759/FUL. (approved unanimously)
- Newcastle Under Lyme College, Knutton Lane, Newcastle. 26/00083/FUL. (approved unanimously)
- 25-27 Well Street & Street & 82 Garden Street, Newcastle. 26/00051/COU. (deferred unanimously to gather information on how many hmo's already exist within 100m radius & definition of a frontage)
- Planning Committee Site Visit Dates for 2026/27. (approved unanimously)

Cllr Christopher Saxton  
Chair

**Licensing and Public Protection Committee**

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

At the meeting Members, received the following Licensing Report:

- National Licensing Policy Framework for the Hospitality and Leisure Sectors

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:

- Newcastle Town Centre Public Space Protection Order Renewal
- Government Consultation Proposals to Make Taxi Licensing the Responsibility of Local Transport Authorities

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 in three occasions; 27<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

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

Cllr Joan Whieldon  
Chair

**The Committee met on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.**

The following Public Protection reports were considered:

- Renewal of Public Space Protection Order : Parks and Open Spaces
- Public Protection Sub \_Committee Arrangements
- Food Safety Service Plan 2026/27 and Review of Performance in 2025/26

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

The Air Quality Action Plan 2026-2030 was deferred to a future meeting.

The Public Protection Sub Committee met on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026.

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

Cllr Simon Kasperowicz  
Chair