

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 21 JULY 2025

Present: Councillor S J Carr, Chair

Councillors: K Woodhead (Vice-Chair)
M Brown
R Bullock
A Cooper
T Marsh (substitute)
J M Owen
P J Owen (substitute)
P Smith (substitute)
S Webb (substitute)
E Winfield

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Dannheimer, K A Harlow, S P Jeremiah, A Kingdon and W Mee.

7 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

8 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9 **Audit of Accounts and Associated Matters**

The Committee considered the latest Audit Progress Report from the Council's external auditors and noted progress made with the 2024/25 audit.

10 **Internal Audit Progress Report**

The Committee noted the recent work completed by Internal Audit.

It was noted that Internal Audit had also reviewed progress made by management in implementing agreed actions within six months of the completion of the respective audits.

11 **Internal Audit Review 2024/25**

The Committee noted the work of Internal Audit during 2024/25 and considered the annual Internal Audit Assurance Opinion that can be used by the Council to inform its Annual Governance Statement.

Overall, 72% of the planned audits were complete or awaiting finalisation as at the year-end, below the 90% target. Audit completion to 31 March 2025 was negatively impacted by a combination of the lag of overdue audits from 2023/24 impacting on completion in the first quarter of 2024/25 and a period of sickness within the team in the fourth quarter.

12 Major Projects Governance Dashboard

The Committee received an update on the 'Governance Dashboard' relating to the Council's major projects.

The Council currently has four major projects in progress: the Housing Delivery Plan, Stapleford Towns Fund, 'Kimberley Means Business' programme and the construction of the new Bramcote Leisure Centre.

It was reported that no issues had been noted with the governance arrangements for the four projects currently in progress.

13 Review of Strategic Risk Register

The Committee considered the Strategic Risk Register and the action plans identified to mitigate risks.

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework and process designed to support both Members and Officers in ensuring that the Council is able to discharge its risk management responsibilities fully. The Strategy outlines the objectives and benefits of managing risk, describes the responsibilities for risk management, and provides an overview of the process that the Council has in place to manage risk successfully.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register and the actions to mitigate risks as set out be approved.

14 Complaint Report 2024/25

The Committee noted the summary of complaints made against the Council.

It was noted that of the 429 stage 1 complaints received overall, 81 were investigated under the stage 2 complaints procedure and seven were investigated by the LGO. Under the stage 2 complaints procedure, 39 complaints were not upheld, 41 complaints were upheld and one was withdrawn (2%).

15 Findings of Fault Determinations Reported from the Ombudsman

The Committee considered the recent findings of fault determinations made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman.

RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee give consideration that a review of the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour procedure be undertaken.

16 Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.