

AUDIT, RISK AND GDPR SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the **AUDIT, RISK AND GDPR SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **TUESDAY, 5TH MAY 2026** at **7.00pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Ken Robson (Chairman) and:
Councillors Tony Beddard, Neil Collinson and Carl Robinson.

OFFICERS

Mrs Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Miss Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr Steve Ragg (Internal Auditor)
Mrs Vikki Anderson (Corporate Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Sharon Hutchinson and Chris Clement were in attendance.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arun M Chandran and Richard Hutchinson.

13. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

16. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Beddard, and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub-Committee, held on 17th February 2026, be received.

17. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Internal Auditor submitted a report updating members following the consideration of the Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Control and the Annual Review of Risks at a meeting of the Full Council held on 11th March 2026.

In addition, he provided details of the assessment of the Council's compliance with Section C which was not completed last time and the newly added Section O of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26, which he felt had been met and had therefore signed off the Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26.

The Internal Auditor confirmed that the relevant policies are in place with good staff, who are ensuring the policies are adhered to as necessary and advised that the policies are there for the protection of the officers, councillors and Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

18. INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS – ACTIONS UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Finance Manager setting out the action plan for audit recommendations, there was one outstanding recommendation which will be addressed at the forthcoming AGM and no new recommendations.

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, and seconded by Councillor Neil Collinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

19. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report providing information for the purpose of monitoring the Council's Risk Management Strategy, identifying that no new risks have been added to the register since the Council approved the current risks on 11th March 2026. Risks are regularly reviewed.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

20. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION UPDATE

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a brief report providing an update on General Data Protection Regulation issues. A data audit has been carried out, and no data breaches have been recorded since the last report.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Beddard, and seconded by Carl Robinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

Councillor Carl Robinson thanked the Internal Auditor for his accurate and informative reports which have made it easier to look at the issue.

The Finance Manager added that the Internal Auditor was much appreciated.

Chairman