

Everything you need to know about the Standards and Audit Committee

The council's Standards and Audit Committee has a vital role to play in how the organisation functions.

The committee is responsible for: –

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct
- Good governance
- Internal Audit
- External Audit
- Risk Management
- The control environment
- Anti-fraud and anti- corruption arrangements
- Carrying out hearings into alleged misconduct by councillors

The committee meets on a regular basis. Chaired by Councillor Mark Raynor it is advised by the director of finance and resources, Kevin Hanlon, the internal audit consortium manager, Jenny Williams, and the monitoring officer, Gerard Rogers. The committee can request the attendance of officers to seek explanations and assurances, particularly in relation to internal audit report findings and recommendations.

Its role is key to providing independent assurance that there are strong internal controls, governance arrangements and risk management procedures in place. The committee works with officers to ensure that action plans are agreed and implemented to strengthen arrangements. The committee reviews and approves one of the Council's key documents, the Annual Governance Statement, each year.

The Committee is also the champion of high standards. By reviewing and approving the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy the council's zero tolerance approach to fraud is enforced.

Equally important is its role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors of this authority and Chesterfield's two parish councils. It also carries out hearings into allegations of misconduct by a member where there has been an investigation.