

Audit Committee – Annual Chair’s Report 2025

First of all I would like to thank colleagues for electing me as Chair and for the support of my Vice Chair, Gordon Czapiewski, over the past 12 months. I was pleased to be able to represent the Council at the DAP Committee meetings with Cllr Czapiewski. Also being the Chair of the Audit Committee when DAP celebrated their 15th Anniversary.

I would like to thank those members of the public who had regularly attended and kept the Committee on its toes in relation to housing matters and information management.

I welcome the appointment of the Independent Person to provide relevant and qualified knowledge and expertise moving forwards.

The Committee provided thorough analysis of corporate risks at each and every meeting, particularly 3Rivers, the challenges of recruitment, Cullompton Relief Road, Climate Change and the reputational damage to the Council caused by 3Rivers, the latter being formally dissolved in November 2024.

Concerns regarding the Cyber Security has been raised at almost every meeting, a challenge facing the entire sector. I would like to thank those who work tirelessly to uphold our Cyber Security.

I welcome the new auditors Bishop Fleming who attended their first Committee meeting in August. I’m grateful to them for providing a new perspective on the Council’s financial arrangements and for the work they had undertaken in relation to the 2023/2024 audit and for identifying the Housing Rents error in particular.

In the future my hopes are a simplification of the accounts format, insights of the new Independent Person, continued cooperative working with DAP and Bishop Fleming.

I would like to finish by thanking all Committee Colleagues for their attendance, support and valued contribution to each and every debate.

Cllr Lloyd Knight

Audit Committee Chair 2024-2025