

Article 8 – Regulatory and other Committees

8.01 Regulatory committees

The Council will appoint the committees set out in the table “Responsibility for Council Functions” in Part 3 of this Constitution to discharge the functions set out in that table.

8.02 Composition of Regulation and Licensing Committees

The Regulation Committee will be composed of fourteen members appointed in political balance, and (as far as is practicable) drawn equally from the four areas.

The Licensing Committee will be composed of fifteen members, appointed in political balance.

8.03 Terms of Reference of Regulation and Licensing Committees

The Regulation Committee shall determine applications for planning permission referred from the area committees in accordance with the approved guidelines set out in part 3 of this document. The initial submission of any "Major Major" category application will be dealt with by the Regulation Committee. Thereafter, proposals for subsequent variations to the original permission, will be referred to the ward member(s) and Area Chairman to review whether or not the issues raised by the variation application, and the consultation responses to them, merit determination at committee. Where the proposed changes are concluded to be of a minor nature the determination of those applications will be delegated to the Lead Specialist - Built Environment.

The Licensing Committee shall be responsible for those licensing functions listed in part 3 of the Constitution as being the responsibility of the Committee. This will include licensing matters referred to it by officers, in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation, such as contested public entertainment licences, and applications for taxi driver licences where the officer considers the application should be determined by members. The Committee shall also be responsible for all the functions assigned to it under the Licensing Act 2003.

8.04 Scope of Audit Committee

The Council shall appoint an Audit Committee which provides independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment (ranging from standing orders, financial procedures etc.), independent scrutiny of the authority’s financial and non-financial performance, to the extent that it affects the authority’s exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and it oversees the financial reporting process.

8.05 The Audit Committee shall:

1. approve the Strategic and Annual Internal Audit Plans;
2. receive summaries of Internal Audit reports and seek assurance from management that action has been taken.
3. consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies and seek assurance from management that action has been taken.

4. consider the effectiveness of SSDC's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements and seek assurance from management that action is being taken.
5. review the annual Statement of Internal Control and monitor associated action plans.
6. review the SSDC's Code of Corporate Governance and ensure it is kept up to date and reflects best practice. This will include regular reviews of the Council's Constitution and an overview of the risk management.
7. receive reports from management on the promotion of good corporate governance.
8. review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to issues raised.