AGENDA

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

18 August 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Elected Member,

An Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting of the Shire of Cue is to be held on 18 August 2026 in the Council Chambers commencing at 5:00 PM.

Richard Towell

Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF CUE

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

To be held in the Council Chambers at 73 Austin Street, Cue on
18 August 2026 at **5:00 PM**

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The meeting was opened at on Tuesday 18 August 2026

The Presiding Member welcomed those present and read the following disclaimer:
No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Cue for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this Meeting.

It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this Meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of council's decision, which will be provided within fourteen (14) days of this Meeting.

PRESENT:
David Price, Presiding Member
Councillor Les Price, Shire President
Councillor Ron Hogben, Deputy Shire President
Councillor Julie Humphreys
Councillor Norm Lyon
Councillor Jacquie Lacy
Councillor Cian Lyon

STAFF:
Mr Richard Towell, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Lisa Keen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms Stephanie Wandek, Senior Admin Officer

GALLERY:

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

***Committee Decision*:**

That the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of 15 July 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Seconded:

CARRIED:

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

5 REPORTS

5.1	**COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN 2025**
APPLICANT:	Shire of Cue
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
AUTHOR:	Richard Towell - Chief Executive Officer
DATE:	13 August 2026

Matters for Consideration:

Endorsement of the Compliance Audit Return 2025.

Background:

Each year a Local Government is required to complete a Compliance Audit Return (CAR) for the period 1 January to 31 December. Regulations require that the CAR is reviewed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee prior to adoption by Council. Once adopted by Council, a certified copy of the CAR, a copy of the relevant section of the minutes and any additional information explaining or qualifying the CAR is to be submitted to the Local Government Inspector by 30 September 2026 following the period to which the CAR relates.

Comments:

The Compliance Audit Return for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 has been prepared by the Shire of Cue administration. The CAR provides an internal control to assess statutory compliance and covers areas such as disclosure of interest, official conduct, tenders for providing goods and services, delegation of power and duties and appointment of senior employees.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995, Section 7.13(1)(i)

7.13. Regulations as to audits

(1) Regulations may make provision as follows -

(i) requiring local governments to carry out in the manner and form prescribed an audit of compliance with such statutory requirements as are prescribed whether those requirements are —

(i) of a financial nature or not; or

(ii) under this Act or another written law.

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996:

14. Compliance audits

(1) A local government must carry out an audit (a compliance audit) of the local

government's compliance with the statutory requirements prescribed by regulation 13 for the period beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 December in each year.
(1A) Subregulation (1) is subject to regulation 15A.
(2) After a local government has carried out a compliance audit, the CEO must —
(a) prepare a compliance audit return in a form approved by the Inspector; and
(b) give a copy of the compliance audit return to the local government's audit, risk and improvement committee.
(3) The audit, risk and improvement committee must —
(a) review the compliance audit return; and
(b) report to the council the results of that review.
(4) When reporting to the council, the audit, risk and improvement committee must make any recommendations that the committee considers appropriate in relation to the compliance audit return.
(5) The council must consider the compliance audit return and the results of the audit, risk and improvement committee's review (including any recommendations) at a meeting of the council.
(6) The council must —
(a) determine if any matters raised by the audit, risk and improvement committee require action to be taken by the local government; and
(b) either —
(i) adopt the compliance audit return; or
(ii) adopt the compliance audit return subject to amendments proposed by the council.

15. Signed compliance audit return and other information must be given to Inspector
(1) After a compliance audit return has been adopted by the council under regulation 14(6)(b), the local government must give the following information to the Inspector —
(a) a copy of the compliance audit return (or amended compliance audit return, if applicable), signed by the mayor or president and by the CEO;
(b) any recommendations made under regulation 14(4) after the audit, risk and improvement committee has reviewed the compliance audit return;
(c) a copy of the relevant section of the minutes of the meeting at which the compliance audit return was adopted by the council;
(d) any additional information explaining or qualifying the compliance audit.
(2) The information must be given to the Inspector no later than 31 March next following the period to which the return relates.
(3) The Inspector may extend the 31 March deadline.

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Strategic Implications:

Nil

Consultation:

Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee recommends to Council that it adopts the 2025 Compliance Audit Return.

Council Decision:	**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority
MOVED:	**SECONDED:**
CARRIED:	

2025 Compliance Audit Return

Local Government Authority: The Shire of Cue

Local Government Act 1995

s. 2.29

Has every person elected or appointed to a mayor, president, deputy, or councillor role made the required declaration in the prescribed form before a prescribed person, prior to acting in the office?

Response: Yes

s. 3.16

Has the local government reviewed local laws, which have not been reviewed in the previous 8 years, to ensure compliance with Schedule 9.3, Clause 65?

Response: Yes

Comments: All local laws were reviewed on 20/4/2024, CD 06022024

s.3.57

Subject to Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, regulation 11(2), did the local government invite tenders for all contracts for the supply of goods or services where the consideration under the contract was, or was expected to be, worth more than the consideration stated in regulation 11(1) of the Regulations?

Response: Yes

s. 3.58(3)

Where the local government disposed of property other than by public auction or tender, did it dispose of the property in accordance with section 3.58(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 (unless section 3.58(5) applies)?

Response: Yes

s. 3.58(4)

Where the local government disposed of property under section 3.58(3) of the Local Government Act 1995, did it provide details, as prescribed by section 3.58(4) of the Act, in the required local public notice for each disposal of property?

Response: Yes

s. 3.59(2)(a)

Has the local government prepared a business plan for each major trading undertaking that was not exempt in 2025?

Response: N/A

s. 3.59(2)(b)

Has the local government prepared a business plan for each major land transaction that was not exempt in 2025?

Response: N/A

s. 3.59(2)(c)

Has the local government prepared a business plan before entering into each land transaction that was preparatory to entry into a major land transaction in 2025?

Response: N/A

s. 3.59(4)

Has the local government complied with public notice and publishing requirements for each proposal to commence a major trading undertaking or enter into a major land transaction or a land transaction that is preparatory to a major land transaction for 2024?

Response: N/A

s. 3.59(5)

During 2025, did the council resolve to proceed with each major land transaction or trading undertaking by absolute majority?

Response: N/A

s. 5.16 (1)

Were all delegations to committees resolved by absolute majority?

Response: N/A

s. 5.16 (2)

Were all delegations to committees in writing?

Response: N/A

s. 5.17

Were all delegations to committees within the limits specified in section 5.17 of the Local Government Act 1995?

Response: N/A

s. 5.18

Were all delegations to committees recorded in a register of delegations?

Response: N/A

s. 5.36(4) and s. 5.37(3)

Were all CEO and/or senior employee vacancies advertised in accordance with Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, regulation 18A?

Response: N/A

s. 5.37(2)

Did the CEO inform council of each proposal to employ or dismiss senior employee?

Response: N/A

Where council rejected a CEO's recommendation to employ or dismiss a senior employee, did it inform the CEO of the reasons for doing so?

Response: N/A

s. 5.39B

Has the local government adopted and maintained model standards that incorporate the prescribed model standards within required timeframes (including amendments), ensured adoption by absolute majority, published an up-to-date version on its official website, and avoided including any inconsistent additional provisions?

Response: Yes

s. 5.42

Were all delegations to the CEO resolved by an absolute majority?

Response: Yes

Were all delegations to the CEO in writing?

Response: Yes

s. 5.43

Did the powers and duties delegated to the CEO exclude those listed in section 5.43 of the Local Government Act 1995?

Response: Yes

s. 5.44(2)

Were all employees delegated authority by the CEO under Section 5.44(1), issued with a written instrument of delegation?

Response: Yes

s. 5.45(1)(b)

Were all decisions by the Council to amend or revoke a delegation made by absolute majority?

Response: Yes

s. 5.46

Has the CEO kept a register of all delegations made under Division 4 of the Act to the CEO and to employees?

Response: Yes

Were all delegations made under Division 4 of the Act reviewed by the delegator at least once during the 2024/2025 financial year?

Response: Yes

Did all persons exercising a delegated power or duty under the Act keep, on all occasions, a written record in accordance with Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, regulation 19?

Response: Yes

s. 5.50

If the local government paid a finishing employee an amount in addition to their entitlement, did the local government follow a policy it had adopted and published on its website outlining the circumstances in relation to payments made to terminated employees?

Response: N/A

If the local government made a payment to a finishing employee that is more than the amount set out in the policy, was local public notice given?

Response: N/A

s. 5.51A

Has the CEO prepared and implemented a code of conduct to be observed by employees of the local government?

Response: Yes

Has the CEO published an up-to-date version of the code of conduct for employees on the local government's website?

Response: Yes

Comments: https://www.cue.wa.gov.au/documents/32/code-of-conduct-employees-2022

s. 5.67

Where a council member disclosed an interest in a matter and did not have participation approval under sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Local Government Act 1995, did the council member ensure that they did not remain present to participate in discussion or decision making relating to the matter?

Response: Yes

s. 5.68(2)

Were all decisions regarding participation approval in relation to Section 5.68(2), including the extent of participation allowed and, where relevant, the information required by the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 regulation 21A, recorded in the minutes of the relevant council or committee meeting?

Response: Yes

Comments: Special Meeting of Council Tuesday August 5, 2025

s. 5.69(5)

Were all decisions regarding participation approval in relation to Section 5.69(5), including the extent of participation allowed recorded in the minutes of the relevant council or committee meeting?

Response: N/A

s. 5.70

Where an employee had an interest in any matter in respect of which the employee provided advice or a report directly to council or a committee, did that person disclose the nature and extent of that interest when giving the advice or report?

Response: Yes

s. 5.71B(5) and (7)

Where council applied to the Minister to allow the CEO to provide advice or a report to which a disclosure under section 5.71A(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 relates, did the application include details of the nature of the interest disclosed and any other information required by the Minister for the purposes of the application?

Response: N/A

Was any decision made by the Minister under section 5.71B(6) of the Local Government Act 1995, recorded in the minutes of the council meeting at which the decision was considered?

Response: N/A

s. 5.73

Were disclosures under sections 5.65, 5.70 or 5.71A(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the disclosures were made?

Response: Yes

s. 5.75

Was a primary return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons within three months of their start day?

Response: No

Comments: A review has identified that two staff with purchasing authority need to complete a Primary Return. This is being addressed.

s. 5.76

Was an annual return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons by 31 August 2025?

Response: No

Comments: A review has identified that two staff with purchasing authority need to complete a Annual Return. This is being addressed.

s. 5.77

On receipt of a primary or annual return, did the CEO, or the Mayor/President, as the case may be, give written acknowledgment of having received the return?

Response: Yes

s. 5.88

Did the CEO keep a register of financial interests which contained the returns lodged under sections 5.75 and 5.76 of the Local Government Act 1995?

Response: Yes

Did the CEO keep a register of financial interests which contained a record of disclosures made under sections 5.65, 5.70, 5.71 and 5.71A of the Local Government Act 1995, in the form prescribed in the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, regulation 28?

Response: Yes

Comments: A review has identified that the details of the agenda item are to be included in the register.

After a person ceased to be a person required to lodge a return under sections 5.75 and 5.76 of the Local Government Act 1995, did the CEO remove from the register all returns relating to that person?

Response: Yes

Have all returns removed from the register in accordance with section 5.88(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 been kept for a period of at least five years after the person who lodged the return(s) ceased to be a person required to lodge a return?

Response: Yes

s. 5.89A

Did the CEO keep a register of gifts which contained a record of disclosures made under sections 5.87A and 5.87B of the Local Government Act 1995, in the form prescribed in the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, regulation 28A?

Response: Yes

Did the CEO publish an up-to-date version of the gift register on the local government's website?

Response: Yes

s. 5.90A

Did the local government prepare, adopt by absolute majority and publish an up-to-date version on the local government's website, a policy dealing with the attendance of council members and the CEO at events?

Response: Yes

s. 5.94

Does the local government have information available for members of the public to inspect, free of charge as prescribed under section 5.94 and Admin Reg 29, except where restricted under this section?

Response: Yes

s. 5.96

Where a person is entitled to inspect information under this Division, can the local government confirm that copies are available and that the price at which it sells copies does not exceed the cost of providing them, (unless prescribed otherwise)?

Response: Yes

s. 5.96A

Did the CEO publish information on the local government's website in accordance with sections 5.96A(1), (2), (3), and (4) of the Local Government Act 1995?

Response: No

Comments: A review has identified that updates to the local laws and committee meeting documents are required.

s. 5.104

Did the local government prepare and adopt, by absolute majority, a code of conduct to be observed by council members, committee members and candidates that incorporates the model code of conduct?

Response: Yes

Did the local government adopt additional requirements in addition to the model code of conduct?

Response: No

Comments: The code of conduct adopted does not have additional requirements in addition to the model code of conduct

Has the CEO published an up-to-date version of the code of conduct for council members, committee members and candidates on the local government’s website?

Response: Yes

s. 5.128

Did the local government prepare and adopt (by absolute majority) a policy in relation to the continuing professional development of council members?

Response: Yes

s. 7.12A(3), (4) and (5)

Where the local government determined that matters raised in the auditor's report prepared under section 7.9(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 required action to be taken, did the local government ensure that appropriate action was undertaken in respect of those matters?

Response: Yes

Where matters identified as significant were reported in the auditor's report, did the local government prepare a report that stated what action the local government had taken or intended to take with respect to each of those matters?

Response: N/A

Within 14 days after the local government gave a report to the Minister under section 7.12A(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, did the CEO publish a copy of the report on the local government's official website?

Response: N/A

r. 18F

Were the remuneration and other benefits paid to a CEO on appointment the same remuneration and benefits advertised for the position under section 5.36(4) of the Local Government Act 1995?

Response: N/A

r. 19AB

Does the code of conduct contain the requirement that a local government employee (not including the CEO) must not accept a prohibited gift from an associated person?

Response: Yes

r. 19AC

Does the local government's code of conduct include requirements for the recording, storing, disclosure, and use of information relating to gifts accepted by local government employees (excluding the CEO) from associated persons, in accordance with regulatory requirements?

Response: Yes

r. 19AE

Does the local government's code of conduct include requirements addressing employee behaviour in the performance of duties, interactions with others, use and disclosure of information, use of local government resources and finances, the keeping of records, and the reporting and management of suspected breaches and misconduct, in accordance with regulatory requirements?

Response: Yes

r. 19B

Did the local government include in its annual report all information required under section 5.53(2)(g) and (i) and regulation 3A(2), including number of employee's in salary bands over $130,000, remuneration and allowances paid, ordered payments, CEO remuneration, council member meeting attendance, available demographic information about council members, and details of any modifications to the strategic community plan or significant modifications to the corporate business plan?

Response: Yes

r. 19C

Has the local government adopted by absolute majority a strategic community plan?

Response: Yes

Comments: CD 04062025

Adoption date or the date of the most recent review: 17/06/2025

r. 19DA

Has the local government reviewed its corporate business plan in accordance with Admin Regulation 19DA(4)?

Response: Yes

Comments: CD06042025

Date of review: 15/04/2025

Does the corporate business plan comply with the requirements of Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 19DA(2) & (3)?

Response: Yes

r. 22

No response required. This is covered by s5.75.

r. 23

No response required. This is covered by s5.76.

r. 28

No response required. This is covered by s5.88(1).

r. 28A

No response required. This is covered by s5.89A(1).

r. 29

No response required. This is covered by s5.94.

r. 29C

Does the local government publish all prescribed information on its official website— including up-to-date policies, required details of council member and employee returns, council member fees and allowances, and relevant public notices—within the specified timeframes and in accordance with legislative requirements?

Response: Yes

r. 35

Has every local government council member completed and passed the Council Member Essentials course, consisting of the five required modules and delivered by an approved provider, within 12 months of being elected?

Response: Yes

r. 36

Does the local government appropriately identify and document council members who are exempt from the training requirements under section 5.126(1), including verifying that the member:

- has completed an approved course within the specified 5-year period prior to election, or
- completed the LGASS00002 Elected Member Skill Set before 1 July 2019 within the relevant timeframe, or
- qualifies for the transitional exemption applicable to council members in office at the commencement of the 2019 regulatory amendments?

Response: N/A

r. 10

Was the auditor's report for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 received by the local government within 30 days of completion of the audit?

Response: Yes

r. 17

Did the CEO review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the local government's systems and procedures in relation to risk management, internal control and legislative compliance in accordance with Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 regulation 17 within the three financial years prior to 31 December 2025?

Response: N/A

Comments: Yes, Council received the report from the Audit Committee on the review of systems and procedures required under Regulation 17 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 on 18/7/2023, CD07072023. When selecting yes to this question, it will not allow dates unless they are between 01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025.

r. 11FA

Did the CEO provide the Minister a report as to the result of the election within 14 days of the declaration and in the form of Form 20 of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997, modified as necessary?

Response: Yes

r. 13

Were all required oaths, affirmations and declarations under section 2.42 (in relation to Commissioners) made in the correct form (Form 8), before the appropriate authorised person?

Response: Yes

r. 30G

Did the CEO establish and maintain an electoral gift register and ensure that all disclosure of gifts forms completed by candidates and donors and received by the CEO were placed on the electoral gift register at the time of receipt by the CEO and in a manner that clearly identifies and distinguishes the forms relating to each candidate in accordance with regulations 30G(1) and 30G(2) of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997?

Response: Yes

Did the CEO remove any disclosure of gifts forms relating to an unsuccessful candidate, or a successful candidate that completed their term of office, from the electoral gift register, and retain those forms separately for a period of at least two years in accordance with regulation 30G(4) of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997?

Response: Yes

Did the CEO publish an up-to-date version of the electoral gift register on the local government's official website in accordance with regulation 30G(5) of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997?

Response: Yes

r. 5

Has the CEO ensured efficient systems and procedures are established under provisions set out in Financial Management Regulations 5(1)(a) to (g)?

Response: Yes

r. 6

Has the local government ensured that any employee delegated responsibility for day-to-day accounting or financial management operations is not also delegated the responsibility for conducting internal audits, reviewing their own duties, or for managing, directing or supervising someone who carries out these functions?

Response: Yes

r. 7

Did the local government ensure it has regard to the needs of the inhabitants of the district as a whole and not keep separate ward accounts or determine expenditure on the basis of revenue from a ward?

Response: Yes

r. 8

Does the local government maintain separate accounts with a bank or other financial institution for money to be held in the municipal fund, trust fund and for reserve account purposes?

Response: Yes

r. 9

Did the local government keep separate financial records for each trading undertaking and each major land transaction?

Response: N/A

r. 11

Has the local government developed procedures for the authorisation of, and the payment of, accounts in accordance with Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 11(1), (2) and (3)?

Response: Yes

r. 12

Were payments made from the municipal fund or trust fund made by the CEO under a delegated authority or authorised, in accordance with regulation 13(2), in advance by a council resolution?

Response: Yes

r. 13

Can the local government confirm that, where the CEO has been delegated authority to make payments from the municipal or trust fund, the CEO prepared accurate monthly lists that are presented at the next ordinary council meeting and recorded in the minutes?

- includes the payee's name, payment amount, payment date, and sufficient information to identify each transaction where payments have already been made; or
- includes the payee's name, payment amount, sufficient information to identify each transaction, and the date of the council meeting (to which the list will be presented) for accounts requiring council approval.

Response: Yes

r. 13A

Did the local government prepare a list each month of all payments made using employee-authorised credit, debit or other purchasing cards, and include the payee’s name, the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, sufficient information to identify the payment, and present the list at the next ordinary council meeting (and record in the minutes)?

Response: Yes

r. 19

Has the local government established and documented internal control procedures to enable identification of the nature and location of all investments and any related transactions?

Response: Yes

r. 19C

Has the local government ensured that all investments made under section 6.14(1) comply with statutory restrictions set out in Financial Management Reg. 19C?

Response: Yes

r. 7

No response required. This is covered by s3.59(2).

r. 9

No response required. This is covered by s3.59(2).

r. 10

No response required. This is covered by s3.59(2).

r. 11A

Did the local government comply with its current purchasing policy, adopted under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, regulations 11A(1) and (3) in relation to the supply of goods or services where the consideration under the contract was, or was expected to be, $250,000 or less or worth $250,000 or less?

Response: Yes

r. 11

No response required. This is covered by s3.57.

r. 12

Did the local government consider the implications of Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 12 when deciding to enter into multiple contracts rather than a single contract?

Response: Yes

r. 14(1), (3) and (5)

If the local government sought to vary the information supplied to tenderers, was every reasonable step taken to give each person who sought copies of the tender documents, or each acceptable tenderer notice of the variation?

Response: Yes

r. 15

Did the local government's procedure for receiving and opening tenders comply with the requirements of Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 15 and 16?

Response: Yes

r. 16

No response required. This is covered by r. 15.

r. 17

Did the information recorded in the local government's tender register comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 17 and did the CEO make the tenders register available for public inspection and publish it on the local government's official website?

Response: Yes

r. 18(1) and (4)

Did the local government reject any tenders that were not submitted at the place, and within the time, specified in the invitation to tender?

Response: N/A

Were all tenders that were not rejected assessed by the local government via a written evaluation of the extent to which each tender satisfies the criteria for deciding which tender to accept?

Response: Yes

r. 19

Did the CEO give each tenderer written notice containing particulars of the successful tender or advising that no tender was accepted?

Response: Yes

r. 21

Does the local government's advertising and expression of interest processes for limiting who can tender comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulations 21 and 22?

Response: N/A

r. 22

No response required. This is covered by r. 21.

r. 23

Did the local government reject any expressions of interest that were not submitted at the place, and within the time, specified in the notice or that failed to comply with any other requirement specified in the notice?

Response: N/A

Were all expressions of interest that were not rejected under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 23(1) & (2) assessed by the local government? Did the CEO list each person as an acceptable tenderer?

Response: N/A

r. 24

Did the CEO give each person who submitted an expression of interest a notice in writing of the outcome in accordance with Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 24?

Response: N/A

r. 24AD(2), (4) and (6)

Did the local government invite applicants for a panel of pre-qualified suppliers via Statewide public notice in accordance with Local Government (Functions & General) Regulations 1996 regulations 24AD(4) and 24AE?

Response: N/A

If the local government sought to vary the information supplied to the panel, was every reasonable step taken to give each person who sought detailed information about the proposed panel or each person who submitted an application notice of the variation?

Response: N/A

r. 24AE

No response required. This is covered by r. 24AD(2), (4) and (6).

r. 24AF

No response required. This is covered by r. 24AD(2), (4) and (6).

r. 24AG

Did the information recorded in the local government's tender register about panels of pre-qualified suppliers comply with the requirements of Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 24AG?

Response: N/A

r. 24AH(1) and (3)

Did the local government reject any applications to join a panel of prequalified suppliers that were not submitted at the place, and within the time, specified in the invitation for applications?

Response: N/A

Were all applications that were not rejected assessed by the local government via a written evaluation of the extent to which each application satisfies the criteria for deciding which application to accept?

Response: N/A

r. 24AI

Did the CEO send each applicant written notice advising them of the outcome of their application?

Response: N/A

r. 24E

Where the local government gave regional price preference, did the local government comply with the requirements of Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, Regulation 24E and 24F?

Response: Yes

r. 24F

No response required. This is covered by r. 24E.

I certify this is a true and accurate copy of the 2025 Compliance Audit Return, as adopted by Council at the meeting of ______________________________ 2026.

CEO | Date

Mayor or President | Date

5.2	**2025-2026 INTERIM AUDIT REPORT**
APPLICANT:	Shire of Cue
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
AUTHOR:	Richard Towell - Chief Executive Officer
DATE:	13 August 2026

Matters for Consideration:

Receiving of the 2025-2026 Interim Audit Report.

Background:

The Interim Audit for the Shire of Cue was completed by AMD on behalf of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) in April 2026. The Interim Audit Report including management comments is attached.

Comments:

Management comments have been provided in the reports in response to the items raised. Where necessary, changes to practices are being implemented to address the recommendations.

Areas covered in the interim audit includes:

- understanding the Shire of Cue's current business practices;
- understanding the control environment and evaluating the design and implementation of key controls and, where appropriate, whether they are operating effectively;
- testing transactions to confirm the accuracy and completeness of processing accounting transactions;
- clarifying significant accounting issues before the annual financial report is prepared for audit;
- review and assess legislative compliance; and
- follow up prior year management letter comments and recommendations

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

6.10. Financial management regulations

Regulations may provide for -

(a) the security and banking of money received by a local government; and

(b) the keeping of financial records by a local government; and

(c) the management by a local government of its assets, liabilities and revenue; and

(d) the general management of, and the authorisation of payments out of -

(i) the municipal fund; and

(ii) the trust fund,

of a local government.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

5. CEO's duties as to financial management

(1) Efficient systems and procedures are to be established by the CEO of a local government -

(a) for the proper collection of all money owing to the local government; and

(b) for the safe custody and security of all money collected or held by the local government; and

(c) for the proper maintenance and security of the financial records of the local government (whether maintained in written form or by electronic or other means or process); and

(d) to ensure proper accounting for municipal or trust -

(i) revenue received or receivable; and

(ii) expenses paid or payable; and

(iii) assets and liabilities;

and

(e) to ensure proper authorisation for the incurring of liabilities and the making of payments; and

(f) for the maintenance of payroll, stock control and costing records; and

(g) to assist in the preparation of budgets, budget reviews, accounts and reports required by the Act or these regulations.

(2) The CEO is to -

(a) ensure that the resources of the local government are effectively and efficiently managed; and

(b) assist the council to undertake reviews of fees and charges regularly (and not less than once in every financial year); and

(c) undertake reviews of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial management systems and procedures of the local government regularly (and not less than once in every 4 financial

years) and report to the local government the results of those reviews.

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Cue Strategic Community Plan 2023-2038

Outcome 2.1.3 Maintain accountability and financial responsibility.

Consultation:

Lisa Keen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee receives the 2025-2026 Interim Audit Report.

Council Decision:	**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority
MOVED:	**SECONDED:**
CARRIED:	

Office of the Auditor General
Serving the Public Interest

Our Ref: 7923-002

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Mr Richard Towell
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Cue

Email: ceo@cue.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Towell

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
INTERIM AUDIT RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

We have completed the interim audit for the year ended 30 June 2026. We performed this phase of the audit in accordance with our audit plan. The focus of our interim audit was to evaluate the overall control environment, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, and to obtain an understanding of the key business processes, risks and internal controls relevant to our audit of the annual financial report.

Management control issues
We would like to draw your attention to the attached listing of deficiencies in internal control and other matters that were identified during the course of the interim audit. These matters have been discussed with management and their comments have been included on the attachment. The matters reported are limited to those deficiencies that were identified during the interim audit that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to management.

This letter has been provided for the purposes of your local government and may not be suitable for other purposes.

We have forwarded a copy of this letter to the President. A copy will also be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government when we forward our auditor's report on the annual financial report to the Minister on completion of the audit.

Feel free to contact me on 6557 7701 if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely

Iris Yap

Iris Yap
Assistant Director
Financial Audit
16 June 2026

Attach

ATTACHMENT

SHIRE OF CUE

PERIOD OF AUDIT: YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

FINDINGS IDENTIFIED DURING THE INTERIM AUDIT

Index of findings	Potential impact on audit opinion	Rating	Year first raised
1. Monthly reconciliation of fixed assets registers	No	Minor	2025
2. Fuel card controls	No	Minor	2026

Ratings
The ratings in this management letter reflect our assessment of risks based on the likelihood and potential impact if no action is taken. These outcomes consider both quantitative impact (such as financial loss) and qualitative impact (such as inefficiency, non-compliance, poor service to the public or loss of public confidence).

● **Significant** – Findings where there is potentially a significant risk to the entity should the finding not be addressed by the entity promptly. A significant rating could indicate the need for a modified audit opinion in the current year, or in a subsequent reporting period if not addressed. However, even if the issue is not likely to impact the audit opinion, it should be addressed promptly.

● **Moderate** – Those findings which are of sufficient concern to warrant action being taken by the entity as soon as practicable.

● **Minor** – Those findings that are not of primary concern but still warrant action being taken.

ATTACHMENT

SHIRE OF CUE

PERIOD OF AUDIT: YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

FINDINGS IDENTIFIED DURING THE INTERIM AUDIT

1. Monthly reconciliations of fixed asset registers

Finding
It was noted that asset Additions have not been recorded in the asset register as at 30 March 2026.

This was first raised in 2025 however, following best practice guidelines, the shire is transitioning to recording additions and disposals as they occur, except for infrastructure assets which are recorded at year-end to ensure correct classification between Work in Progress (WIP) and completed assets.

Rating: Minor (2025: Moderate)

Implication
Recording asset movements only at year-end may result in incomplete or inaccurate asset records during the year, increasing the risk of errors, omission of disposals, and reduced transparency over asset management. It may also affect monthly depreciation accuracy and decision-making based on asset data.

Recommendation
Management should continue progressing towards best practice by:

- Recording all asset additions and disposals in the asset register in a timely manner throughout the year.
- Implementing procedures to ensure all asset movements are captured promptly and supported by appropriate documentation.
- Continue conducting periodic reconciliations between the asset register and general ledger.
- Maintaining appropriate controls over infrastructure WIP to ensure accurate classification at year-end.

Management comment
Record of asset movements to be added to EOM checklist to ensure they are completed in a timely manner. Procedure to be written once implementation of new accounting software has been completed with instructions on process. Monthly reconciliations to continue as part of EOM reconciliation.

Responsible person:	Lisa Keen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Completion date:	31 August 2026

ATTACHMENT

SHIRE OF CUE

PERIOD OF AUDIT: YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

FINDINGS IDENTIFIED DURING THE INTERIM AUDIT

2. Fuel card controls

Finding

Our testing identified that the shire does not maintain a fuel card register or fuel card agreements with cardholders as required under shire Policy D.10 – Use of Corporate Purchasing Cards.

Rating: Minor

Implication

The absence of formal agreements and a register increases the risk of unauthorised use, misappropriation of fuel cards, and lack of accountability over card allocation and usage. It also limits the ability to monitor fuel expenditure and enforce compliance with internal policies.

Recommendation

Management should implement a formal fuel card management process, including:

- Maintaining signed fuel card agreements for all cardholders outlining terms of use and responsibilities in line with the shires Corporate Card policy.
- Establishing and maintaining a comprehensive fuel card register capturing card details, assigned users, vehicle allocation, issue and cancellation dates.

Management comment

Fuel card agreement has been created outlining terms of use and all staff that are permanently assigned fuel cards (CEO, DCEO and MWS) have been provided with and have signed agreement form. A fuel card sign out sheet had been in use previously for staff temporarily assigned with a fuel card, this form has been reviewed and updated and correct use of it will be enforced going forward. Updated sign out sheet requires completion of name, card number, date out, plant number, date returned and signature. By signing, staff acknowledge that they have read the Shire of Cue Fuel Cardholder Agreement and agree to abide by its terms.

Responsible person: Lisa Keen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Completion date: 7 May 2026

6 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

7 CLOSURE