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Audit inquiry sees six staff suspended

Six council workers in Stoke-on-Trent have been suspended and a man arrested as part of an inquiry into the council's tendering process for demolition work.

The council said the staff work in the Regeneration Directorate at the Civic Centre in the city.

The Audit Commission also seized a number of files at the council offices.

The inquiry centres on alleged breaches of contract rules and financial regulations, the council said.

'Integrity'

A 50-year-old man is due to be questioned later by detectives.

The council said it would not comment on the suspension but expected staff to work to the "highest standards".

John van de Laarschot, chief executive of Stoke-on-Trent City Council, said: "The City Council is working closely with Staffordshire Police and the Audit Commission on this investigation".

"I will not comment on these suspensions but I want to be clear that I expect officers at Stoke-on-Trent City Council to work to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

"The people of this city deserve no less."
