

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

12th November 2024

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Bonner – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown (Vice-Chair), T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, B. Hancox, W. Markham, K. Price, B. Saru, C. Smith and M. Wright.

Apologies: None

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC20 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 10th September 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair; and
- b) the minutes of the Extraordinary Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 8th October 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

ASC21 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic proposed that all reports be published alongside the agenda, at least five working days prior to the Audit and Standards Committee meeting. This proposal was seconded by the Chair.

RESOLVED that all reports for the Audit and Standards Committee be published as part of the agenda, at least five working days prior to the meeting.

ASC22 **Statement of Accounts 2021/22 Approval**

A report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and External Auditors (Grant Thornton) provided the final amended version of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts for approval

**Public Speakers: Mr P. Smith
Mr K. Kondakor**

RESOLVED that

- a) the Audit Findings Report and Opinion on the Statement of Accounts be noted;
- b) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and Chair of Audit and Standards Committee to sign the Accounts; and
- c) the Letter of Representation be approved as accurate and signed now the audit is completed.

ASC23 **Auditor's Annual Report – Value for Money Arrangements**

A Report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and External Auditors (Grant Thornton) provided Members with the Annual Auditor's report combined for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Public Speakers: **Mr P. Smith**
 Mr K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) be noted

ASC24 **Internal Audit Plan 2024-25**

A Report of the Head of Audit and Governance gave the Committee an opportunity to discuss and agree proposed changes to the approved internal audit plan for 2024-25.

Public Speakers: **Mr P. Smith**
 Mr K. Kondakor
 Councillor M. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the internal audit plan be approved.

ASC25 **Internal Audit Half Yearly Report**

The Head of Audit and Governance provided an overview of the work completed by the Internal Audit Section during 2024/25.

Public Speakers: **Mr P. Smith**
 Mr K. Kondakor
 Councillor M. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the key audit findings be noted.

ASC26 **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report**

A report of the Customer Experience and Data Protection Officer provided Members with the annual summary of the complaint statistics from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Public Speakers: **Mr P. Smith**
 Mr K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the Annual Summary of complaints statistics from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2024 be noted.

ASC27 **The Treasury Management 2024/25 Mid-Year Review**

A report of the Finance Manager – Treasury set out the Council's treasury position as of 30th September 2024.

Public Speaker: **Mr K. Kondakor**

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Treasury Management Report for 2024/25 – Mid-year review be noted.

ASC28 **Removal of Elected Members from Grayson Place (NBBC) Limited and NABCEL Directorship Roles**

A Report of the Constitution Review Working Party to seek a recommendation for the removal of Elected Members from Grayson Place Limited and NABCEL directorship roles.

**Public Speakers: Mr K. Kondakor
 Councillor M. Kondakor**

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be considered;
- b) the recommendation to remove Elected Members from Grayson Place (NBBC) Limited and NABCEL directorship roles for the reasons outlined in the report be endorsed;
- c) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL to approve the removal of Elected Members from Grayson Place Limited and NABCEL directorship roles;
- d) Delegated Authority be given to the Head of Paid for Service to appoint a third Director of Grayson Place (NBBC) Limited to meet the minimum threshold as per the Articles of Association; and
- e) the amendment to the Articles of Association for NABCEL to reduce the number of Directors from five (5) to four (4) be supported by The Council.

ASC29 **Recommendations from the CRWP – Removal of Appeal Committee on the Dismissal of Employees**

A report of the Assistant Director- Democracy and Governance and Monitoring Officer gave Members the opportunity to consider and approve the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party and recommend changes to the Constitution.

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) the recommendations as set out in the report and appendices be approved; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the constitution be amended accordingly.

Councillor Cvetkovic moved in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4A.21 to suspend standing orders to allow the business of the meeting to be concluded.

This was seconded by the Chairman. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

ASC30 **Recommendations from the CRWP – Changes to the Delegations of the Assistant Director of Planning**

A report of the Assistant Director- Democracy and Governance and Monitoring Officer gave Members the opportunity to consider and approve the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party and recommend changes to the Constitution.

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

Councillor B. Hancox proposed that all recommendations be voted for as one motion. This was seconded by Councillor K. Price and the motion was passed.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic proposed an amendment to add a definition of ‘major applications’ to the Planning Applications Committee glossary. The motion was seconded by Councillor D. Brown and the motion was passed.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic proposed an amendment to not accept ‘change 3’ within the report. The motion was seconded by Councillor D. Brown, the motion was lost.

RESOLVED that

- a) the recommendations as set out in the report and appendices be approved, with the addition of a definition for ‘major applications’ being added to the glossary; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the constitution be amended accordingly.

ASC31 **Review of the Register of Members Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Registers 2023-2024**

A report of the Monitoring Officer gave Members the opportunity to review the registration of Members’ Interests and, Gifts and Hospitality by Members and Officers for the period 24th October 2023 - 15th October 2024.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the Register for Members’ Interests between 24th October 2023 and 15th October 2024 be considered and noted; and
- b) the contents of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for Members and Officers between 24th October 2023 and 15th October 2024 be considered and noted.

ASC32 **Any Other Items**

An extraordinary meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee will take place on Tuesday, 3rd December 2024.

Chair _____

**Audit and Standards –
Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2024/2025**

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	J. Bonner	Employed by Etone College (Matrix Academy Trust) - Teacher	The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Labour Party - National Education Union 	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity. -Trustee of the Exhall Education Foundation Charity 	
	T. Cooper			
	L. Cvetkovic	Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder); Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee) Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building Control Partnership Steering Group 	
	B. Hancox		The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Labour Party - Unite the Union - British Gurkha Veterans Association (Adviser) Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuneaton Festival of Arts - Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee - Nicolas Chamberlaine's School Foundation 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	W. Markham		Governor at Ash Green School for SEND Member of the following bodies: - Unite Union - Free Speech Union - Exhall Multicultural Group	
	K. Price	Warwickshire County Council	The Labour Party Unite the Union BASW Social Work England Registration	
	B. Saru	- Director – Saru Embroidery Ltd - Co-founder and Owner – Fish Tale Ale Beer	- Labour Party (sponsorship) - Chair of the British Gurkha Veterans Association Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Armed Forces Covenant	
	C. Smith	Software Engineer – Prophet PLC	- Member of Labour Party and Unite - Safeguarding – Manor Park RFC Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Astley Charity	
	M. Wright			