

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

An Extraordinary meeting of the Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton. The meeting was live streamed and recorded for publication on the Council's website.

**Present**

Councillor D. Brown (Chair)

Councillors: C. Watkins (Vice-Chair), R. Baxter-Payne, K. Evans, B. Hammersley, S. Harbison, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, M. Tromans and Mrs D. Ross

Cabinet Member for Public Services: Councillor S. Markham

Apologies: Councillor L. Downs (Councillor K. Evans as substitute)

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**FPS08Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes be approved with the following addition:

Councillor J. Sheppard declared that her declarations of interest were not included in the schedule as she is not a panel member but can be found on the council website.

**FPS09Bedworth Civic Hall – Update - call in.**

At the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Strategic Director – Public Services submitted a report detailing an update on the progression of the venue with regards to the lease and procurement process. Cabinet approved the report and on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the opposition called in the decision for it to be considered by the Finance and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The call in as detailed in the agenda was accepted but only in part in its reference to 'Third sector model'. Therefore, an Extraordinary Meeting of this OSP was called, in line with the call in procedure, as detailed within the Constitution. The Cabinet Member for Public Services was in attendance to answer questions put forward by the panel.

Public Speakers: **Mr Peter Smith**  
**Ms Rachel Hardy**  
**Mr Steve Young**

**Mrs Janet Batterbee  
Councillor J. Sheppard (Called in the decision)**

The following points were raised:

- Cabinet Member for Public Services established that the decision is following due process in line with the Localism Act. There are two expressions of interest, therefore a procurement exercise needs to be carried out and it will go to the open market to get the best value for residents and its value as a commercial property.
- It was questioned by the panel as to whether the council's intention is to provide a service or to sell the asset off. The Cabinet member confirmed that the asset is not being sold and that it is being leased.
- It was questioned by the panel as to whether this process was followed for the Stockingford Community Centre (STC) and Keresley Community Centre (KCC), the Cabinet Member responded that STC and KCC are different from the Civic Hall but could not comment on the finances involved as it was not under her portfolio.
- It was questioned as to how bidders meet the 20% social value. The Cabinet Member confirmed that there are Heads of Terms that will be released once the bidding is open that will detail how bidders can meet the 20% and confirmed that the building is going to be used for entertainment purposes.
- Concerns were raised as there was no mention of third sector model on the cabinet report dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and how this is to be addressed. The social value may have been higher if more consideration was given.
- Concerns were also raised regarding the timescales being too short, a lack of openness and holding the executive to account.

**Councillor C. Watkins proposed the following motion:**

This goes back to Cabinet for further consideration of the third sector model, further time to be given for the expression of interests and for new and up to date figures to come forward for OSP.

**Councillor K. Kondakor seconded the motion.**

**A vote was taken.**

**Councillor K. Kondakor and Councillor C. Watkins requested their vote for the motion be recorded.**

**The motion was lost.**

**Councillor D. Brown moved the following motion.**

- a) the debate be noted;
- b) the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> May remain as follows
  - i) the proposed selection criteria at Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and
  - ii) Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director – Finance & Governance and Strategic Director – Economy & Transformation in

consultation with the Leisure & Health Manager and Portfolio Holder for Public Services to undertake the selection exercise in accordance with the timetable as set out at Appendix 2 of the report; and

c) the outcome of the OSP be referred to Cabinet as appropriate.

**Councillor J. Kennaugh seconded the motion**

**A vote was taken.**

**Councillor K. Kondakor and Councillor C. Watkins requested their vote against the motion be recorded.**

**The motion was carried.**

**RESOLVED** that

a) the debate be noted;

b) the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> May remain as follows

i) the proposed selection criteria at Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and

ii) Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director – Finance & Governance and Strategic Director – Economy & Transformation in consultation with the Leisure & Health Manager and Portfolio Holder for Public Services to undertake the selection exercise in accordance with the timetable as set out at Appendix 2 of the report; and

c) the outcome of the OSP be referred to Cabinet as appropriate.

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Chair

## Finance and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	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"> <li>- Housing matters</li> <li>- Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992</li> <li>- An allowance, payment given to members</li> <li>- An indemnity given to members</li> <li>- Any ceremonial honour given to members</li> <li>- Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> <li>- Planning and Licensing matters</li> <li>- Allotments</li> <li>- Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
	R. Baxter-Payne	Manager Brinklow Quarry Ltd, Brinklow; County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee</li> <li>• Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute)</li> </ul>	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment).</li> </ul>	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane Little Caesars Donuts Limited NBBC Council Contract for market pitch	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C.  Employed by FedEx Express UK Ltd	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party Member of UNITE the Union  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQUIP</li> </ul>	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic and Embedded Software Design Engineer (self-employed)	Unpaid Director of 100% Renewables UK Ltd  Green Party (E&W)	
	M. Tromans	Warwickshire County Councillor (Galley Common)  Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton	Member of WI  Member of the Conservative Party	
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL)</li> </ul>	