

## **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded for publication on the Council website.

#### **Present**

Councillor R Baxter Payne – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown, T. Cooper, L. Downs, L. Cvetkovic, R. Tromans, S. Harbison (substitute for Councillor J. Hartshorn) and C. Watkins (substitute for Councillor J. Sheppard).

Apologies: Councillors B. Beetham, J. Hartshorn, N. Phillips, J. Sheppard and Kennaugh.

#### **PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

##### ASC19 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

##### ASC20 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R. Tromans declared he has been asked to represent WCC on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Board.

As Councillors S. Harbison and C. Watkins were substitute Councillors for this meeting, their declarations were not detailed in the Schedule attached to the agenda, but are available to view on the NBBC website.

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes, with the addition of the Declarations of Interest for Councillor R. Tromans, and the Declarations of Interests for Councillors S. Harbison and C. Watkins who were substitute Councillors for this meeting.

##### ASC21 **Formal Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

The Strategic Director for Economy and Transformation provided a report outlining the significant performance improvements that have been made against target Service Level Agreements (SLA) within the last 12 months for both Formal Complaints and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the information within the report be considered and noted;
- b) the changes and suggestions made by the committee be noted and actioned;  
and
- c) this item be considered again by the committee in six months to ensure NBBC is fulfilling and meeting necessary recommendations.

ASC22 **Scheduled Reviews of the Performance Management Framework and the Risk Management Policy and Strategy**

The Audit and Governance Manager and the Governance, Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Members with the reviewed Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy documents for approval.

**Public Speaker: Mr Peter Smith**

**RESOLVED** that the revised Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy documents be approved.

ASC23 **Publicity Protocol – Change to the Constitution**

A report from the Chief Executive provided Members with an opportunity to consider the recommendations from the Officers to Publicity Protocol and recommend changes to the Constitution.

**RESOLVED** that

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

ASC24 **Contract Procedure Rules - Update**

The Assistant Director – Governance and Democracy presented a report noting the proposed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules considering the senior management restructure and changes in procurement law.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) The proposed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules be notes; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

ASC25 **Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

The Assistant Director – Governance and Democracy presented the findings of an assessment of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's corporate governance framework as presented in the Annual Governance Statement.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) The findings of the review of corporate governance and index control as set out in the Annual Governance Statement be considered; and
- b) The Annual Governance Statement be approved

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

## Audit and Standards Committee - 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 (Chair)  | Employed by Vinci Construction Major Projects UK Ltd (VCMP UK Ltd);<br>County Councillor - WCC | Spouse: Self-employed childminder<br><br>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> |  |
|  | B. Beetham   | Senior PowerBi Lead at Wye Valley Hospital Trust;<br>Warwickshire County Council – Camp Hill   | Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | D. Brown   | Employed by H.M Land Registry  | Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.<br><br>Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment).</li> </ul>   |  |
|  | T. Cooper  | None   | Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban</li> </ul>   |  |

|  | Name of Councillor       | Disclosable Pecuniary Interest   | Other Personal Interest  | Dispensation   |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|
|  |                          |  | Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | L. Cvetkovic             | Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry   | The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder);<br>Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee)<br><br>Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Control Partnership Steering Group</li> </ul>   |  |
|  | L. Downs                 | River Bars Limited;<br>Coventry Plus<br>Beyond the Plane<br>Little Caesars Donuts Limited<br>NBBC Council<br>Contract for market pitch | Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | J. Hartshorn             | Employed by Asda Nuneaton  | Member of Nuneaton Conservatives   |  |
|  | J. Kennaugh              | County Councillor W.C.C.<br><br>Employed by Yu Energy.   | Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee<br>Member of the Conservative Party<br>Member of UNITE the Union<br><br>Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQulP</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | N. Phillips              | Employee of DWP  | Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Labour CLP</li> <li>• The Fabian Society</li> <li>• The George Eliot Society</li> <li>• The PCS Union</li> <li>• Central Credit Union</li> <li>• Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club</li> <li>• Haunchwood Sports and Social Club</li> </ul> |  |
|  | J. Sheppard (Vice-Chair) |  | Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.<br>Director of Wembrook Community Centre.<br>Member of Labour Party.  | Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre |
|  | R. Tromans               | Compliance, GIM, Coventry<br><br>Warwickshire County Councillor  | Member of the Conservative Party<br><br>Member of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management   |  |

|  | <b>Name of Councillor</b> | <b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>                                  | <b>Other Personal Interest</b> | <b>Dispensation</b> |
|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|  |                           | (Weddington)<br>Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton |                                |                     |