

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5th September 2023

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 5th September 2023 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, J. Hartshorn, R. Tromans and M. Green (substitute for Councillor L. Cvetkovic).

Apologies: Councillors B. Beetham, L. Cvetkovic, J. Kennaugh, N. Phillips and J. Sheppard (Vice-Chair),

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC6 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 11th July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

ASC7 **Declarations of Interest**

As a substitute Councillor for this meeting, the Declarations of Interest for Councillor M. Green were not detailed in the Schedule attached to the agenda.

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 M. Green

ASC8 **Statement of Accounts for 2021/21 Audit Update**

A report of the Strategic Director – Finance and Governance and the External Auditor provided an update to the Committee on the external audit progress for the Statement of Accounts 2021/22.

RESOLVED that the Audit Progress Audit Progress Report on the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 be noted.

ASC9 **Internal Audit Annual Report and Counter Fraud Activity 2022 - 23**

The Head of Audit and Governance presented the Head of Audit and Governance (Interim) Annual Report.

RESOLVED that

- a) the findings of an assessment of the internal audit function against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and quality assurance programme be noted;
- b) the summary of internal audit work at Appendix A and B which supports the Head of Governance opinion be considered;
- c) the Head of Audit and Governance overall opinion on the control environment be noted; and
- d) thanks be put on record to the Counter Fraud Officer.

ASC10 **Internal Audit Charter**

A Report of the Head of Audit and Governance gave the Committee an opportunity to consider and approve the Internal Audit Charter.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Charter be approved.

ASC11 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (i) and (ii) of Part I and II of Schedule 12A to the Act.

ASC12 **Overview of Complaints Against Members: 29th February 2023 to 16th August 2023**

The Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with a report of the complaints received from 29th February 2023 to 16th August 2023.

RESOLVED that the report confirming 9 formal complaints have been received for the period 29th February 2023 to 16th August 2023 be noted.

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"> - 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
	R. Baxter-Payne (Chair)	Employed by Vinci Construction Major Projects UK Ltd (VCMP UK Ltd); County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee • Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute) 	
	B. Beetham	Senior PowerBi Lead at Wye Valley Hospital Trust; Warwickshire County Council – Camp Hill	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	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"> • Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment). 	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Hill Urban 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	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 	
	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"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C. Employed by FedEx Express UK Limited.	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"> • EQUiP 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Central Credit Union • Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club • Haunchwood Sports and Social Club 	
	J. Sheppard (Vice-Chair)		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. Director of Wembrook Community Centre. 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 Warwickshire County Councillor	Member of the Conservative Party Member of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		(Weddington) Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton		