

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2nd July 2024

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Bonner – Chair

Councillors: T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, B. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, W. Markham, K. Price, B. Saru, C. Smith, M. Kondakor (substituting for Councillor M. Wright) and S. Markham (substituting for Councillor D. Brown).

Apologies: D. Brown (Vice-Chair) and M. Wright.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC1 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 12th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

ASC2 **Declarations of Interest**

As Councillors M. Kondakor and S. Markham 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 Interests for Councillors M. Kondakor and S. Markham, who were substitute Councillors for this meeting.

ASC3 **Internal Audit Annual Report 2023 - 24**

A Report of the Head of Audit and Governance to present the Head of Audit and Governance Annual Report.

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

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 which supports the Head of Audit and Governance opinion be considered; and
- c) the Head of Audit and Governance overall opinion on the control environment be noted.

ASC4 **Internal Audit Charter**

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

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Charter be approved.

ASC5 **Review of Treasury Management Practices (TMPS)**

A Report of the Finance Manager - Treasury, and Assistant Director – Finance provided Committee Members with the revised Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) for approval.

RESOLVED that

- a) the revised TMPs be noted; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the revised TMPs be approved.

ASC6 **Treasury Management 2023/24 – Year End Review**

The Finance Manager - Treasury, and Assistant Director – Finance provided a report which set out the Council's treasury position as at 31st March 2024.

RESOLVED that

- a) the annual report be noted; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the annual report be approved.

ASC7 **Financial Procedure Rules – Update**

A Report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources provided Committee Members with details of the proposed changes to the Financial Procedure Rules further to a restructure of the Management Team, plus updates to outdated terminology and inclusion of details of Subsidy Control rules.

RESOLVED that

- a) the proposed updates be noted; and
- b) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the updated document is approved for inclusion in the Constitution.

ASC8 **Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme**

A Report of the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance gave Members the opportunity to consider the Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme for 2024/25.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme for 2024-25 be approved; and
- b) the Audit and Standards Committee meeting scheduled for 21st January 2025 be moved to 4th February 2025.

ASC9 **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.

PART II – EXEMPT ITEM/S

ASC10 **Complaints Against Members: September 2023 To May 2024**

The Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with a report of the complaints received from September 2023 to May 2024.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report relating to complaints that have been received for the period September 2023 to May 2024 be noted; and
- b) a report be submitted to the Committee to look at discretionary powers being given to Officers to resolve minor incidents and complaints.

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	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 Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board • 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 	
	B. Hancox		The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of:	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Labour Party - Unite the Union - British Gurkha Veterans Association (Adviser) 	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	W. Markham		Governor at Ash Green School for SEND Member of Unite Union	
	K. Price	Warwickshire County Council		
	B. Saru	Director – Saru Embroidery Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labour Party (sponsorship) - Armed Forced Covenant 	
	C. Smith	Software Engineer – Prophet PLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Labour Party and Unite - U16 Coach – Nuneaton RFC - Safeguarding – Manor Park RFC 	
	M. Wright			