

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8th November 2022

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 8th November 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded and live streamed.

Present

Councillor R Baxter Payne – Chair

Councillors: L. Cvetkovic, T. Cooper, L. Downs, M. Green, J. Kennaugh, J Sheppard (Vice-Chair) R. Tromans, S. Harbison (substitution for Councillor B. Beetham) and B. Hammersley (substitution for Councillor J. Hartshorn).

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

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ACS19 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 6th September 2022, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

ACS20 **Declarations of Interest**

As substitute Councillors for this meeting, the Declarations of Interest for Councillors S. Harbison and B Hammersley 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 Councillors S. Harbison and B. Hammersley.

ACS21 **Public Consultation**

A statement from Mr S. Margrave was read out by the Director for Planning and Regulation.

ACS22 **Local Government Ombudsman’s Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2021 to April 1st 2022**

A report of the Director for Customer and Corporate Services was presented to the committee for consideration of the information received in the Local Government Ombudsman’s annual letter relating to complaints received about the Council, and for the Committee to comment on the Council’s performance in dealing with these complaints for year ended 1st April 2022.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

ACS23 **Internal Audit Annual Report and Counter Fraud Activity 2021-2022**

A report of the Audit and Governance Manager was presented to the committee to review the Head of Audit and Governance Annual Report.

Public Speakers: Councillor K. Kondakor and 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 (at Appendix A and B of the report) 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.

ACS24 **Internal Audit Charter**

A report of the Audit and Governance Manager was presented to the committee to consider and approve the Internal Audit Charter.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Charter at Appendix A of the report be approved.

ACS25 **Review of the Register of Members' Interests and Gift and Hospitality Registers 2021-2022**

A report of the Director for Planning and Regulation was presented to the committee, to review the register of Members' Interests and Gifts and Hospitality by Members and Officers for the period 21st October 2021 – 31st October 2022.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the register of Members' Interests between 21st October 2021 and 13th October 2022 be considered; and
- b) the contents of the registers of Gifts and Hospitality for Members and Officers between 21st October 2021 and 13th October 2022, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be considered.

ACS26 **Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022**

A report of the Director for Planning and Regulation was presented to the committee to consider the findings of an assessment of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's corporate governance framework, as presented in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that

- a) the findings of the review of corporate governance and internal control as set out in the AGS at Appendix A of this report be considered; and
- b) the AGS be approved.

Audit and Standards Committee - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2022/2023

	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)	Manager Brinklow Quarry Ltd, Brinklow; 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	Employed at The George Eliot Hospital; 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 	
	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	The Bulkington Volunteers	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		(Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	(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	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	M. Green	Employed by Horiba Mira – Calibration Technician	Chair of Education Standards Committee – St Thomas More School Executive Member – Nuneaton Conservatives. Secretary – St Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of the Angels Church. Our Lady of the Angels Church Member of the George Eliot Fellowship. Member of the Nuneaton Education Strategy Board Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children. 	
	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	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Community Centre. Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop-in.	
	R. Tromans	RTC, Nuneaton AFL, Wellingborough	W.C.C. Warwick Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee Hospice Charity	