

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded and live streamed.

**Present**

Councillor H. Walmsley – Chair

Councillors B. Beetham, T. Cooper, L. Downs, L. Hocking J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, J. Singh, R. Tromans and Mr G. Sonola

Apologies: none

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

ASC28 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

ASC29 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

ASC30 **The Annual Audit Letter for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

A report of the External Auditors – Grant Thornton presented the Annual Audit letter which summarised the key findings arising from the work that the auditors carried out at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2020.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted.

ASC31 **Treasury Management Monitoring Q2 2021/22**

A report from the Head of Financial Services informed the committee of the treasury management activities of this authority in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted.

ASC32 **Disclosure and Barring Checks for Councillors**

A briefing note of the Equalities and Safeguarding Officer was submitted to the committee advising that under the current guidance unless the Councillors are performing regulated activity as described in the briefing note, they would only qualify for a basic DBS.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the briefing note be noted;
- b) a briefing note be circulated to the Audit and Standards Committee on protocol regarding what a councillor should or should not be doing in relation to their duties as a councillor; and
- c) the Disclosure and Barring Service Policy in relation to councillors and the ability for councillors to request a DBS check be referred to the Employment Committee for review.

ASC33 **Internal Audit Report – Delegated Authority 2021-22**

The Director - Finance submitted a report to the committee on the outcome of the Internal Audit looking at the effectiveness of the controls in place to mitigate the key risks to the Officer Delegated Authority arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

ASC34 **Internal Audit Report – Compensation Payments & Compromise Agreements 2021-22**

The Director – Finance submitted a report to the committee on the outcome of the Internal Audit establishing the number of compensation claims including compromise agreements in the last ten years.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

ASC35 **Internal Audit Report – Community Groups Funding (in the last ten years) 2021 – 22**

The Director – Finance submitted a report to the committee on the outcome of the effectiveness of the controls in place to mitigate the key risks to the Community Groups funding arrangements.

**Councillor Kondakor declared an other interest by way of his occasional use of the Pingles track by himself and his wife.**

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

ASC36 **Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Deputy ERO, Deputy ERO and Scale of Election Staff Fees**

The Director – Finance presented a report that proposed the Chief Executive be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer for Nuneaton and Bedworth, the Head of Elections be appointed as a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy Returning Officer. In addition, it proposed a scale of fees to be used by the election staff, including the Returning Officer at Borough and other elections.

**RESOLVED** that it be recommended to Council that:

- a) the Chief Executive is appointed as Electoral Registration Officer;
- b) the Head of Elections is appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy Returning Officer;
- c) the proposed scale of fees attached at Appendix A of the report is approved; and
- d) the Chief Executive is given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the attached fees to reflect the National Joint Council Local Government Pay Award.

ASC37 **Review of Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy**

The reviewed Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy Performance documents were presented to Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

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

ASC38 **Review of the Register of Members' Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Registers 2019 -2021**

The Director – Planning and Regulation submitted a report to the committee to review the registration of Members' Interested and Gifts and Hospitality.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the contents of the register of Members' Interests between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved; and
- b) the contents of the registers of Gifts and Hospitality for Members and Officers between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved

**Vice Chair Councillor Makayla Rudkin now in the Chair due to Conflict of Interest by the Chair Councillor Hayden Walmsley in the following item.**

ASC39 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**SPEAKER: Councillor Hayden Walmsley**

**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 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**Councillor Hayden Walmsley left the meeting**

**Part II – Private Business**

ASC40 **Referral of Investigation – Complaint 5/21**

An Investigation Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer was presented to the committee for consideration.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and no further action be taken.

Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the above recommendation be written in the minutes.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

**Audit and Standards Committee - Schedule of Declarations of Interests  
– 2021/2022**

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	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>
	B. Beetham	Employed by The George Elliott Hospital; 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>	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on 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>	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane	NBBC representative on the Armed Forces Covenant Meeting	
	L. Hocking	Employed by Openreach	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unite the Union</li> <li>• Communication Workers Union</li> </ul>	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C.	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Employed by UK Flooring Direct Ltd.	Party Member of UNITE the Union Nuneaton and Bedworth representative for the Equality and Inclusion Partnership NBBC Representative on Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic Design Engineer (self-employed, semi-retired) Statistical data analyst and expert witness (self-employed)	100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch</li> </ul>	
	M. Rudkin	Employee of Coventry City Council	Unite the Union	
	J. Singh			
	R. Tromans	RTC, Nuneaton AFL, Wellingborough	Warwickshire County Councillor  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> <li>• Nuneaton Festival of Arts</li> </ul>	
	H. Walmsley	Chief of Staff to Julian Knight MP	Chartered Institute of Public Relations  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Project for Children</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group</li> </ul>	Dispensation to speak and vote