

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11th January 2022

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 11th January 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded and live streamed.

Present

Councillor H. Walmsley – Chair

Councillors B. Beetham, L. Downs, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, and M Rudkin

Apologies were received for Councillors L. Hocking, R. Tromans and Mr G. Sonola

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC41 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 9th November 2021, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair; and
- b) the minutes of the Audit and Standards Sub-committee meeting held on 20th December 2021, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair

Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the approval of the Audit and Standards Sub-committee minutes be recorded in the minutes.

ASC42 **Declarations of Interest**

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

ASC43 **Mayoral Protocol**

The Director for Planning and Regulation presented the report and recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party on the Mayoral Protocol.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Mayor's protocol as shown at Appendix A of the report be approved; and
- b) it be recommended to Council that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

ASC44 **The Code of Conduct**

The Director for Planning and Regulation presented the report and recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party on the adoption of the code of conduct used by Warwickshire County Council with some minor modifications as at Appendix B of the Report.

SPEAKER: Michele Kondakor

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the code of conduct as set out in Appendix A of the report be adopted, subject to the modifications recommended in Appendix B of the report.

ASC45 **Voluntary Councillor Recall Scheme**

The Director for Planning and Regulation presented the report and recommendation from the Constitution Review Working Party on the introduction of a local recall scheme for Councillors based on the provisions of the Recall of MPs Act 2015 that came into force on 4th March 2016.

RESOLVED that a joint letter be sent from the Chair of this Committee And the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities seeking the introduction of a national recall scheme for local Councillors.

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

ASC46 **E-Petitions Scheme**

The Director for Planning and Regulation presented the report detailing the recommendations made by the Constitution Review Working Party upon reviewing the Petitions Scheme and the introduction of an e-petition scheme for the Council

SPEAKER: Michele Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) an e-petition scheme be piloted using an online process developed by I.T or using Change.org

- b) Delegated authority be given to the Director – Planning and Regulation, in consultation with the Chair of Audit and Standards Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, to consult on a NBBC led e-petition scheme for the Council;
- c) the amended Petitions Scheme at appendix A of the report be approved; and
- d) it be recommended to Council that the constitution be amended accordingly

ASC47 **The Complaints Procedure**

The Director for Planning and Regulation presented to the committee recommendations from the Audit and Standards Sub-Committee which met on 20th December 2021 to review the complaints procedure used by this council and recommend changes.

SPEAKER: Michele Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) the Complaints Procedure be approved as shown at Appendix A of the report; and
- b) it be recommended to Council that the Constitution be amended accordingly

Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the approval of the Complaints procedure be recorded in the minutes

ASC48 **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 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Part II – Private Business

ASC49 **Referral of Investigation – Complaint 7/21**

The Monitoring Officer presented the Investigation Report to the committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Investigation Officer conclusion that there was no breach of the Members code of conduct be accepted; and
- b) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the Subject Member and confirm that the Committee is satisfied that no further action is required and to provide a copy of the investigators final report to both the Subject Member and the Complainant.

ASC50 **Referral of Investigation 9/21**

The Monitoring Officer presented the Investigation Report to the committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Investigation Officer conclusion that there was no breach of the Members code of conduct be accepted; and
- b) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to write to the Subject Member and confirm that the Committee is satisfied that no further action is required and to provide a copy of the investigators final report to both the Subject Member and the Complainant.

Chair _____

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

	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
	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"> • 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. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane	NBBC representative on the Armed Forces Covenant Meeting	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Nuneaton Library – Digital Inclusion – WCC (Senior Customer Service Assistant) COVID Community Testing – WCC – Team Leader (Casual)	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	L. Hocking	Employed by Openreach	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unite the Union • Communication Workers Union 	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C. Employed by UK Flooring Direct Ltd.	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative 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	
	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"> • Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee • Nuneaton Festival of Arts 	
	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"> • Friendship Project for Children • West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group 	Dispensation to speak and vote