

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE
2021

28th September

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 28th September 2021 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor H. Walmsley – Chair

Councillors B. Beetham, T. Cooper, L. Downs, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, N. Phillips (substitute for Councillor Hocking) J. Singh, R. Tromans and Mr G. Sonola

Apologies: Councillor L. Hocking.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC20 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 20th July, 2021, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

ASC21 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tromans noted that his employment as a Warwickshire County Councillor and Risk and Compliance, AFL, Wellingborough did not appear on the Schedule for Declarations on Interest.

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

ASC22 **Treasury Management Monitoring Quarter One 2021/22**

A report of the Head of Financial Services to inform 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.

ASC23 **Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2021**

A report of the Director – Customer, Revenues and Assurance which provided the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the information received in the Local Government Ombudsman’s annual letter relating to complaints received about the Council, and to comment on The Council’s performance in dealing with these complaints, for the year ended 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

ASC24 **Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2020-21**

A report of the Director – Democracy, Planning and Public Protection to provide the Committee with the Annual Standards Section Report 2020-21 for approval.

Councillor Beetham moved that a sub-committee of five members be formed to investigate streamlining and improving the complaints procedures and processes. This was seconded by Councillor Downs.

A vote was taken, and the motion was approved. Councillor Kondakor requested that his vote be recorded, this is as follows:
Councillor Kondakor – Against.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the draft 2020/2021 Annual Report as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved;
- b) the report be published as indicated in the report;
- c) a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members be formed to investigate options to streamline and improve the complaints processes.

ASC25 **Any Other Items**

The Chair noted that the Statements of Accounts 2020/21 should have come to the Committee at this meeting. Craig Pugh, the Head of Financial Services, apologised for the delay and informed the Committee that this has been caused by both internal and external issues. However, he did note that there are no changes to the outturn for the HRA and General Fund, as previously reported to Cabinet.

ASC26 **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 (iv) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

ASC27 **Complaints Against Members: 3rd March 2021 – 2nd September 2021**

A report of the Monitoring Officer which provided the Committee with a report of the complaints received from 3rd March 2021 to 2nd September 2021.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

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	
	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.	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"> • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch 	
	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