

## **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

#### **Present**

Councillor J. Bonner – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown (Vice-Chair), T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, B. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, T. Jenkins, C. Smith, M. Wright, M. Walsh (substitute for W. Markham) and C. Phillips (substitute for A. Bull)

Apologies: Councillors W. Markham and A. Bull.

#### **PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

A minutes silence was held in memory of Linda Downes prior to the meeting.

##### ASC1 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

##### ASC2 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interests are as set out in the Schedule which can be viewed on the Council website ([Councillor Declarations of Interests](#)).

##### ASC3 **Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme 2025/26**

A Report of The Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance gave the Committee the opportunity to consider and approve the Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme for 2025/26 after taking into consideration the purpose and functions of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Audit and Standards Committee Core Work Programme for 2025-26 be approved.

##### ASC4 **External Audit Plan 2025/25**

A Report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and External Auditors to give the Committee an opportunity to consider the audit plan for the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED** that the detail contained within the audit plan be noted.

##### ASC5 **Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025**

The Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance presented the findings of an assessment of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's corporate governance framework as presented in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

**RESOLVED** that

- a) consideration be given to the findings of corporate governance and internal control as set out in the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS);
- b) the draft AGS be endorsed (subject to the amendments in c) and d) of this resolution), noting the AGS will need to be re-submitted in September 2025 for full approval as a result of the delayed Internal Audit opinion and in the event the Committee require any amendments;
- c) for more graphics to be included where possible, to make some sections within the document easier to understand visually. This includes a flowchart at section 3.4 and a table at section 5 of the document under Statement of Accounts for date purposes; and
- d) a clear link be added in the introduction with an overview of the Statutory Services the Council provides, aligning with the Narrative Report provided due to be in the Statement of Accounts.

ASC6 **Recommendation from the Constitution Review Working Party – Member Code of Conduct Complaint Process**

A Report of The Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance and Monitoring Officer allowed Members to consider and approve the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party and recommend changes to the Constitution.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the changes to the Member Code of Conduct Complaint Process be approved; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

ASC7 **Recommendation from the Constitution Review Working Party – Council Meeting Agenda Order**

A Report of The Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance and Monitoring Officer allowed Members to consider and approve the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party and recommend changes to the Constitution.

A five minute adjournment of the meeting took place during the discussion.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that agenda item ‘Questions By Members’ be moved to the end of the agenda at Full Council and, if required due to time restrictions, Standing Orders be automatically suspended as necessary, in connection with the three-hour meeting rule, to maintain up to 45 minutes of ‘Questions By Members’; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the constitution be amended accordingly.

ASC8 **Treasury Management 2024/25 – Year End Review**

The Finance Manager – Treasury reported that the Council is required through the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) to report to Full Council an annual review.

This report to the Committee set out the Council's treasury position as at 31st March 2025 and therefore any decisions made after this date are not reflected in this report.

**RESOLVED** that

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

Chair \_\_\_\_\_