

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th April 2026

An extraordinary meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 14th April 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Bonner – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown (Vice-Chair), A. Bull, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, J. Hartshorn, C. Smith, M. Wright, J. Gutteridge (substitute for W. Markham) and Mr A. Morgan.

Apologies: Councillors B. Hancox and W. Markham.

Absent: Councillor T. Jenkins.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC52 **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](#)).

ASC53 **Constitution Update – Report from Constitution Review Working Party – Chairmanship of OSP’s and Political Balance**

A Report of the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance gave Committee Members the opportunity to consider the arrangements for Chairmanship of the four Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the process of arranging political balance for Committee’s and Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Bonner and seconded by Councillor C. Smith to take each matter in the report in turn. A vote took place and all Councillors agreed.

Public Speaker: Councillor M. Kondakor on both matters in the same report.

RESOLVED that

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Panels (OSPs)

- a) the chairmanship arrangements for the four Overview and Scrutiny Panels be considered and as appropriate recommendations be made to amend section 4E.6 of the Constitution to Option B at section 4.2.7.2 of the report (subject to a change of terminology as per resolution b) and by proportionality as per resolution c) below).
- b) terminology within 4.2.7.2 of the report be amended to change the wording from ‘main Opposition Group’ to ‘an Opposition Group’ and ‘largest Opposition Group’ where necessary:
- c) the chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be determined initially by proportionality, with the largest Opposition Group getting the choice first, the next largest Opposition Group second and so on. If two or more group’s have an equal number of Members, a random/impartial decision will be made (by way of drawing lots or similar) and if there are fewer Opposition Group’s than OSP’s, it will revert back to the largest Opposition Group and so on.

Proportionality of Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Panels (OSP's)

- d) table in section 4.3.6 be amended to show Labour having two seats rather than three on the Officer Remuneration Panel and five seats rather than four in the Borough Plan Committee;
- e) the political balance process and associated arrangements for the composition of Committee's and Overview and Scrutiny Panels be considered and recommendations be made to amend the Constitution (as per 4.3.8 of the report noting the resolution and change under f) below); and
- f) the table in section 4.3.8 be made more generic by removing party names and making it clear the tables are examples;
- g) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** that the Constitution be updated accordingly as follows:

4E.6 WHO CHAIRS OSP MEETINGS?

The Council will appoint Chair and Vice Chair of each OSP. The Chair of each OSP shall be nominated from the membership of an Opposition Group. The Vice Chair of each OSP shall be nominated from the Controlling Group. The Chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be determined initially by proportionality of the Council, with the largest Opposition Group getting first selection of which OSP first, the next largest Opposition Group second choice and so on. If two or more parties have an equal number of Members, a random decision will be made by way of drawing lots will be used. If there are fewer Opposition Groups than OSP's, it will revert back to the largest Opposition Group to repeat the cycle. If at any meeting neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are present, the Members present will appoint a Chair for that meeting from any member of that OSP.

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ARTICLE 2: MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

A2.1 COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY

a) *Composition*

The Council will comprise 38 Councillors, otherwise called Members, representing 19 Wards. Two Members will be elected by the voters of each Ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission and approved by the Secretary of State. The Political Balance of the Council will be calculated in accordance with Section 15 (5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. An example has been provided below as to the proportionality in terms of the number of seats across Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Panels:

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total
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<i>Size</i>	10	5	5	18	38
<i>% of total</i>	26.32%	13.16%	13.16%	47.37%	100%
<i>seats to hold on committees</i>	26	13	13	47	99

Section 15 (5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 outlines the principles the Council must comply with. Once the calculations have been determined, where there is any scope for the smallest Group to select preference of which Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Panel(s) to reside on, they will have first choice. Then moving up to the largest Group. However, subject to the Composition of the Council, there may be no scope for selections, as such, the outcome of the calculations will be final. The Monitoring Officer or their Deputy will have the final say and determine the allocations based on the outcome of the formula.

Chair _____