NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE **15th September 2026**

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 15th September 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor L. Cvetkovic – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown (Vice-Chair), J. Bonner, S. Carvell, T. Cooper, B. Hughes, M. Kondakor, C. Morris, C. Phillips, P Smith (substitute for A. Brassington) and Mr A. Morgan.

Apologies: Councillors A. Brassington and C. Cape.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC11 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.

ASC12 **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).

ASC13 **External Audit Build Back Plan**

The Strategic Director – Resources and External Auditors provided Committee Members with an update on the plan to rebuild assurance and achieve a clean audit option on the Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED that the External Audit Build Back Plan be noted.

ASC14 **External Audit Plan 2025/26**

A report of the Strategic Director – Resources and External Auditors gave Members the opportunity to consider the Audit Plan for the Statement of Accounts 2025/26.

RESOLVED that the External Audit Plan 2025/26 be noted.

ASC15 **Planning Applications Committee**

The Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance, Assistant Director – Planning, and Planning Manager (Development Control) provided a report which informed Members of the Government's introduction of the National Scheme of Delegation for planning functions and the statutory requirements relating to the operation and size of planning committees.

Necessary amendments to the Constitution include the Planning Applications Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation, to ensure compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 and associated statutory guidance.

RESOLVED that
IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL that
a) the Council notes the requirements of the National Scheme of Delegation and associated statutory guidance;
b) the Constitution, including the Planning Applications Committee Terms of Reference and Planning Scheme of Delegation, be amended to ensure compliance with the 2026 Regulations as per Appendices A.1 through to D.2;
c) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance in consultation with the Assistant Director – Planning, to make any consequential constitutional amendments required to implement the new arrangements further to legislation;
d) the Chair of Planning Applications Committee be designated as the Council's "Nominated Member" for the purposes of the Regulations and the Vice Chair being the nominated substitute;
e) the Assistant Director – Planning be designated as the Council's "Nominated Officer" for the purposes of the Regulations and the Planning Manager (Development Control) being the nominated substitute;
f) it be noted the Planning Applications Committee membership is within the statutory maximum committee size of thirteen (13) Members;
g) it be noted that Training for Members and Officers has or will be scheduled prior to the end of October 2026;
h) it be noted that Information that explains how and when the Council will consult on planning applications will need to be available on the Council's website; and
i) a review by Members of the Audits and Standards Committee be carried out after a period of 6 months from 1st November 2026, and any recommendations from the review be made to Full Council.

ASC16 **<u>Internal Audit Progress Report</u>**

The Audit Manager presented a report which provided the Committee with an update on progress against the approved Internal Audit Plan, which details the performance and activity of Internal Audit since the last Progress Report presented to this Committee.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Progress Report be considered and noted, and any issues identified be subject to a follow-up report as appropriate, including:
a) Food Hygiene/Safety Inspections – a briefing update can be supplied to Members;
b) Fire Risk Management – a new Estates Officer has been appointed and they will be tasked with looking at Health and Safety certifications and Fire Risk Management; and
c) Grounds Maintenance, including getting value for money and payment methods relating to performance, areas chosen for random sampling, and effective monitoring of the contract – Grounds Maintenance will be on the agenda of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel taking place on 15th October 2026, and all Members can attend this meeting.

ASC17 **<u>Treasury Management 26/27 – Quarter 1 Review</u>**

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner 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 the mid-year review.

The report set out the Council's treasury position as at 30th June 2026.

RESOLVED that
IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL that the Treasury Management Report for 2026/27 – Q1 Report be noted.

Councillor M. Kondakor abstained from voting on this item. All other Members supported the recommendation.

ASC18 **Annual Governance Statement**

A report of the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance gave Members the opportunity to approve the 2025/2026 Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 (including the review of corporate governance and internal control) be considered and approved.

ASC19 **Constitution Update – Report from Constitution Review Working Party – Proposal for an Annual Report of the Shareholder Committee**

A report of the Elections and Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer) provided an opportunity for Members to consider an Annual Report of the Shareholder Committee.

RESOLVED that
IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL that
a) the Constitution be amended to require the Shareholder Committee to produce an Annual Report for presentation to the final meeting of Full Council in each Municipal Year. Any commercially sensitive information could be included within confidential section or a separate confidential report where necessary; and
b) the report be a standalone annual report, rather than being included within the annual report of the OSPs.

ASC20 **Audit and Standards Committee Work Programme 2026/27**

RESOLVED that
a) the work programme 2026/27 be noted; and
b) a review of the Government Reforms on Planning Committees – Changes to Constitution (Planning Applications Committee agenda item) be added to the work programme. The review to be carried out after a period of 6 months from 1st November 2026 (earliest Committee would be April 13th 2027).

Chair _________________________