

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7th November 2023

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 7th November 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded for publication on the Council website.

Present

Councillor R Baxter Payne – Chair

Councillors: D. Brown, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, J. Sheppard (Vice-Chair) and R. Tromans.

Apologies: Councillors L. Downs and N. Phillips.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC13 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 5th September 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

ASC14 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J. Kennaugh declared that he is now employed by Yu Energy.

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes, with the addition of the new declaration from Councillor J. Kennaugh.

ASC15 **Follow-Up Review Briefing Report**

A report of the Head of Audit and Governance to inform the Committee of the findings of the follow-up reviews completed on those audits where a 'Limited Assurance' opinion was given at the initial review stage, as reported in the Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that the results of the follow-up reviews and the updated assurance levels be noted.

ASC16 **Review of the Register of Members' Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Registers 2022-2023**

The Monitoring Officer provided a report giving Members the opportunity to review the registration of Members' Interests and, Gifts and Hospitality by Members and Officers for the period 14th October 2022 – 23rd October 2023.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the register of Members' Interests between 14th October 2022 and 23rd October 2023 be considered and noted; and

- b) the contents of the registers of Gifts and Hospitality for Members and Officers between 14th October 2022 and 23rd October 2023, as set out in Appendix A, be considered and noted.

ASC17 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

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 and II of Schedule 12A to the Act.

ASC18 **Revised Governance Arrangements**

The Strategic Director – Finance and Governance presented a report proposing a change to the delivery of the Internal Audit Service.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report and proposal to join the Central Midlands Audit Partnership (CMAP) on 1st April 2024 be noted;
- b) it be noted that the Chair of the Committee is to sit on the Partnership Board and the S151 Officer is to sit on the Operational Board to represent the Council if the proposal is approved by Cabinet; and
- c) the opportunity to implement and present quarterly audit plans to Committee in place of an annual plan be noted.

Chair _____

Audit and Standards Committee - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	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
	R. Baxter-Payne (Chair)	Employed by Vinci Construction Major Projects UK Ltd (VCMP UK Ltd); County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee • Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute) 	
	B. Beetham	Senior PowerBi Lead at Wye Valley Hospital Trust; 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 	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment). 	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Hill Urban 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	L. Cvetkovic	Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder); Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee) Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Control Partnership Steering Group 	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane Little Caesars Donuts Limited NBBC Council Contract for market pitch	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C. Employed by Yu Energy.	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party Member of UNITE the Union Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQUiP 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Central Credit Union • Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club • Haunchwood Sports and Social Club 	
	J. Sheppard (Vice-Chair)		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. Director of Wembrook Community Centre. Member of Labour Party.	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre
	R. Tromans	Compliance, GIM, Coventry Warwickshire County Councillor	Member of the Conservative Party Member of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		(Weddington) Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton		