

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15th March 2022

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 15th March 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded and live streamed.

Present

Councillor H. Walmsley – Chair

Councillors B. Beetham, T. Cooper, L. Downs, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, J. Singh, R. Tromans and Mr G. Sonola

Apologies were received for Councillor M. Rudkin

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC51 **Announcements**

The Chair announced that this would be the first hybrid committee meeting held by the Council.

Mr Sonola wished to place on record his thanks to the members of the committee and staff for the opportunity to serve as a co-opted member for eight years on this committee as this would be his final meeting.

Councillor R. Tromans proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by the Chair for Mr Sonola's invaluable input to the committee over the last eight years.

ASC52 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 11th January 2022, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

ASC53 **Declarations of Interest**

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

ASC54 **Internal Audit Report – Notices Issued to Residents (in the last 2 years)**

The report of the Internal Auditor was submitted to the committee for consideration. The audit focused on whether the notices issues in the

last two years were appropriate and in accordance with the statutory guidance and the Council's approved policies and procedures.

RESOLVED that

- a) to review the challenge data to be provided for the relevant type of notices issued for the last three years (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22) with a report to be brought back to the next full Audit and Standards committee to ensure the work has been completed; and
- b) the report be noted

ASC55 **Internal Audit Report – Section 106 Agreement (Planning Obligations in the past five years)**

A report from the Internal Auditor was submitted on the above to the committee for consideration. The scope of the audit was to provide assurance that the Planning Service arrangements were meeting the needs of the council, and to ensure that all s106 income due was calculated accurately, collected and spent in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

RESOLVED that

- a) it be recommended to Cabinet to review the indexation payments (that have not been claimed on certain invoices) with a view of re-invoicing the relevant developers for the outstanding amounts; and
- b) the report be noted.

ASC56 **Internal Audit Plan 2022-23**

A report from the Interim Director – Finance and Enterprise set out the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2022-23

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Plan 2022-23 at Appendix A be approved with the commitment that the terms of reference for the audits be brought to the Audit and Standards Committee in July and that any urgent requests from the committee be sent to the Chair within the next two weeks.

ASC57 **Any Other Items**

Statement of Accounts 2020/21

The Interim Director – Finance and Enterprise informed the committee that due to COVID-19 the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 are currently not ready to be presented to the committee. The Government did relax the audit requirements due to exceptional circumstances for the year 2020/21. The aim is to have the accounts ready for the next Audit and Standards due to be held in July 2022.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

ASC58 **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 (ii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Part II – Private Business

ASC59 **Complaints Against Members: 3rd September 2021 – 3rd March 2022**

A report from the Monitoring Officer was presented to the committee for consideration of the complaints against members received from 3rd September 2021 to 3rd March 2022.

RESOLVED that the four formal complaints received for the period 3rd September 2021 to 3rd March 2022 be noted

ASC60 **Whistle-blowing complaint: Outcome of investigation**

An Outcome of Investigation Report from the Director – Planning and Regulation was presented to the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that

- a) the actions taken to date at Appendix A of the report be noted;
- b) an addition of stock controls to the Governance and Procurement Assurance audit;

- c) it be recommended to Employment Committee that the flexi-time scheme be reviewed; and
- d) the underlying cultural issues be referred to the Council's Management Team to adopt appropriate arrangements within the Council's Corporate Governance framework to address those issues.

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	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Nuneaton Library – Digital Inclusion – WCC (Senior Customer Service Assistant) COVID Community Testing – WCC – Team Leader (Casual)	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	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. Employed by UK Flooring Direct Ltd.	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative 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	
	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