

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

20th July 2021

A meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee was held on Tuesday, 20th July 2021 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor H. Walmsley – Chair
Councillor M. Rudkin – Vice-Chair

Councillors B. Beetham, T. Cooper, L. Downs, B. Hammersley (substitute for Councillor S. Markham), L. Hocking, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, J. Singh and R. Tromans.

Apologies: Councillor S. Markham and Mr G. Sonola

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

ASC11 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 22nd June, 2021, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

ASC12 **Declarations of Interest**

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

ASC13 **External Audit Plan**

A report of representatives from the external auditors Grant Thornton to provide the Audit and Standards Committee with an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

ASC14 **Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council 2020/21**

A report of representatives of the external auditors Grant Thornton to contribute towards the effective two-way communication between

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's external auditors and the Audit and Standards Committee.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

ASC15 **Treasury Management Monitoring Q4 2020/21**

A report of the Head of Financial Services to inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the treasury management activities of the authority in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

ASC16 **Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21**

A report of the Head of Audit and Governance which presented the Committee with the Head of Audit and Governance's Annual report. This report included a statement on conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS.) Also included was the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme. Additionally, the Head of Audit and Governance's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's framework of governance, risk management and control, and a summary of the work that supports that opinion was included in the report

RESOLVED that

- a) the findings of the assessment of the internal audit function against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and quality assurance programme be noted;
- b) the summary of the internal audit work as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report which support the opinion of the Head of Audit and Governance was considered;
- c) the overall opinion on the control environment of the Head of Audit and Governance be noted;
- d) the Head of Audit and Governance bring a report to the Committee with the results of further benchmarking;
- e) a briefing note on the fire risk assessment process for HRA buildings be produced showing the progress being made by the contractors, and
- f) a relevant officer attend the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee scheduled for September 2021 to address concerns over Data Quality, in particular PULPI 21A – monitoring of the standard of grounds maintenance work.

ASC17 **Internal Audit Plan 2021/22**

A report of the Head of Audit and Governance which provided the Audit and Standards Committee with the proposed changes to the approved internal audit plan for 2021-2022.

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the internal audit plan, as shown in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

Councillor Kondakor voted against the motion.

ASC18 **Internal Audit Charter**

A report of the Head of Audit and Governance to provide the Committee with the Internal Audit Charter for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Charter be approved.

ASC19 **Any Other Items**

Councillor Downs raised the issue DBS checks for members to be carried out. The Head of Audit and Governance agreed to produce a briefing note setting out the requirements for a DBS check

Councillor Walmsley informed the committee that a training session was scheduled for 29th July 2021.

Councillor Beetham raised a query in connection with the quorum of a Hearing Panel. The Director of Democracy, Planning and Public Protection indicated that the wording in the procedure guide would need to be altered. It was agreed that this be referred to the Constitution Review Working Party.

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	
	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.	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Employed by UK Flooring Direct Ltd.	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	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch 	
	M. Rudkin	Employee of Coventry City Council	Unite the Union	
	J. Singh			
	R. Tromans	Director of RTC Ltd	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	Dispensation to speak and vote
Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children • West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group 				