

Audit Committee

Monday 13 March 2023 at 2.00 pm

Civic Suite

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live broadcast and recorded content will be available to view on the Council's [Meetings Channel](#).

By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed. If members of the public do not wish to be filmed, make the Clerk aware of this so suitable seating can be found.

Any person taking part in the meeting is reminded not to disclose personal information about any third party

Disclosing Pecuniary Interests - What Must You Do?

(a) You must complete a declaration of your disclosable pecuniary interests, including those of your spouse/civil partner (or someone with whom you are living as such) and send it to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of your election or appointment to the Council.

(b) When you attend a meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Board, Committee, Sub-Committee or Joint Committee etc, and a matter arises in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, unless you have been granted a dispensation, **you must:**

- Declare the interest if you have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

(c) If you are the Leader or a Cabinet Portfolio Holder you may not exercise any of your delegated powers as a single member in relation to a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or take any other step except to give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of your becoming aware of the interest, or arrange for another person or body to deal with the matter.

Disclosable Interest	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain by you or your partner.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within 12 months of your declaration of interests in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.
Contracts	Any contract between you or your partner (or a firm or body corporate in which you or your partner is a partner or a director, or in the securities of which you or your partner has a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council and which gives you or your partner a right to occupy the land or receive income.
Licences	Any licence held by you or your partner (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the Council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest i.e. a firm or body corporate in which you or your partner is a partner or a director, or in the securities of which you or your partner has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest held by you or your partner in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class. “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

To:
Councillors Mr T Beirne (Chairman),
Mr M Burnett, Mr D Page, M Brain, R Long
(Vice-Chairman) and A Sandison

PAUL JOHNSON
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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James Hughes
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Date Thursday 2nd March 2023

AUDIT COMMITTEE - Monday 13 March 2023

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **PUBLIC MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 6)
To receive the **public** minutes of the previous meeting.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest from Members
4. **QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**
To answer questions, if any, asked by any resident of the Borough pursuant to Standing Orders.
5. **VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**
To receive a verbal report from the External Auditor
6. **CHILDRENS SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE** (Pages 7 - 12)
The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with an update in relation to the Children's Services Improvement Plan.
7. **HOUSING BENEFIT SUBSIDY CLAIM 2021/22** (Pages 13 - 20)
To update Audit Committee on the report of the 2021/22 housing benefit subsidy claim.

8. **DRAFT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STATEMENT AND POLICY** (Pages 21 - 40)

To inform the Audit Committee of the proposed new Fraud and Corruption Statement and Policy, for comment and endorsement.

9. **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES – 2022/23** (Pages 41 - 64)

To review and consider the Council's proposed Accounting Policies that will be applied for the 2022/23 financial year.

10. **PREVENTION OF THE FACILITATION OF TAX EVASION POLICY** (Pages 65 - 78)

This report sets out the specific Policy for the Prevention of the Facilitation of Tax Evasion.

11. **2023/24 FINANCIAL REGULATION UPDATE** (Pages 79 - 84)

To consider the Council's revised Financial Regulations and associated documents.

Appendix A will only be available online.

12. **RISK MANAGEMENT INFORMATION REPORT** (Pages 85 - 116)

As part of the Council's Risk Management Approach, Audit Committee:
- Monitors the effective development and operation of risk management.
- Considers compliance with the Risk Management Policy and Procedure.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

That the press and public be now excluded from the remainder of the business to be transacted, on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

14. **ITEM 12 - PRIVATE APPENDIX E** (Pages 117 - 126)

15. **PRIVATE MINUTES** (Pages 127 - 128)

To receive the **private** minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023.