

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE 23 JULY 2019

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS WHO TRADED WITH THE COUNCIL DURING 2018/19

JOINT REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to the Audit Committee information to be published in respect to Councillors who traded with the Council during 2018/19.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members of the Audit Committee note the contents of the report and information that will be published on the Council's website.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 To improve transparency it was agreed in the Autumn 2012 that details of councillors who have an interest in companies that receive a payment from the Council, for example a directorship, should be separately reported to the Council through the Audit Committee.
- 3.2 This information is collected as part of the final accounts process and this report represents information for 2018/19.
- 3.3 This information will be published on the Council's website following presentation to the Audit Committee.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Council's Constitution Committee 4th September 2012
Council 19th September 2012 (2011/12)
Audit Committee 28th January 2014 (2012/13)
Audit Committee 16th September 2014 (2013/14)
Audit Committee 15th September 2015 (2014/15)
Audit Committee 20 September 2016 (2015/16)
Audit Committee 19 September 2018 (2016/17)
Audit Committee 24 July 2018 (2017/18)

5 BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 5.1 As part of the annual account process councillors disclose where they have an interest in a company/companies that receive payment from the Council. These are shown annually in the Final Accounts that are presented to the Audit Committee.
- 5.2 However, the Council through the Constitution Committee and full Council agreed that in order to provide better transparency additional details of any Councillors who have an interest in companies that benefit from trading with the Council will be taken to Full

Council via the Audit Committee as a separate report each year and published on the Council's website.

This information will be more readily accessible by the public and demonstrate the Council's co-operative commitment to openness.

- 5.3 It was agreed that the information reported would be the previous year's value and description of any payments received from the Council to any businesses/companies where that Member has an interest.
- 5.4 Only two Councillors were associated with companies (either owners or Directors) who received payments from the Council in 2018/19. These were:
- Councillor Stephen Burrell - £362,096 in respect to the company Peace of Mind Homecare. Councillor Burrell is a Director of this company.
 - Councillor Joy Francis - £243,531 in respect to the companies Tortoise Day Nursery and Smiley faces Day Nursery. This relates to payment of nursery funding on behalf of the Government. Councillor Francis is the owner of Tortoise Day Nursery and Managing Director of Smiley Faces Day Nursery.

6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

AREA	COMMENTS
Equal Opportunities	Transparency supports equalities and demonstrates the Council's commitment to be open and fair.
Environmental Impact	This report has limited environmental impact due to the nature of the work companies reported.
Legal Implications	It should also be noted that in addition to the publication of the information referred to in this report, Councillors also have to complete a disclosable pecuniary interest's form following their appointment. This form includes a section where Councillors must provide details of any contracts they have with the Council. The form for each Councillor is published on the Council's website.
Links with Corporate Priorities	The report supports the Council's values which are embedded in the delivery of all the Council's priorities.
Risks and Opportunities	The risks and opportunities in respect to this report will be appropriately identified and managed.
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from this report as the information is already collected as part of the final accounts process.
Ward Implications	Borough wide

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Localism Act 2011

Co-operative Council Commissions Report 2012

Report prepared by Jonathan Eatough – Monitoring Officer and Ken Clarke, Chief Financial Officer