



# Borough of Telford and Wrekin

## Audit Committee

Wednesday 17 July 2024

### Publication of information on Councillors who traded with the Council during 2023/24

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance & Governance	
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
<b>Service Area:</b>	Finance & Human Resources	
<b>Report Author:</b>	Tracey Drummond - Principal Auditor Rob Montgomery – Audit, Governance & Procurement Lead Manager	
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision	
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable	
<b>Report considered by:</b>	SMT – 8 July 2024 Audit Committee – 17 July 2024	

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

The Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report and information that will be published on the Council's website.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 The purpose of the report is to present to the Audit Committee information to be published in respect of Councillors who traded with the Council during 2023/24.

## **3.0 Background**

3.1 As part of the annual account process, Councillors disclose whether 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.

3.2 However, 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.

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

3.4 Audit Committee has previously 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.

3.5 During 2023/24 only two Councillors were associated with companies (either owners or Directors) that traded with the Council during that year. These were:

- Councillor Stephen Burrell – £428,000 in respect of the company Peace of Mind Homecare. Councillor Burrell is a Director of this company. Peace of Mind Homecare provide domiciliary care services.
- Councillor Carolyn Healy - £61,304 in respect of the company Red Kite Ltd. Councillor Healy is a Director of this company. Red Kite Ltd provide landscaping/environmental services.

## **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

4.1 There are no proposals, this report is for information only.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no options relating to this report as it is for information only.

## **6.0 Key Risks**

6.1 The risks and opportunities in respect to this report will be appropriately identified and managed.

## **7.0 Council Priorities**

7.1 The report supports the Council's values that are embedded in the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The information is also reported on within Note 48. Related Parties – Members, in the draft statement of account which was considered at the last meeting of the Committee.

## **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

9.1 There are no legal implication directly arising from this report. In addition to the publication of the information referred to in this report, Councillors also have to complete a disclosable pecuniary interests form following their election or within 28 days of an interest arising. 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.

## **10.0 Ward Implications**

10.1 Ward implications cover all local councils detailed in the Parish Charter.

## **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

11.1 There are no health, social or economic implications.

## **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

12.1 Transparency supports equalities and demonstrates the Council's commitment to be open and fair.

## **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13.1 This report has limited environmental impact due to the nature of the work companies reported undertake.

## **14.0 Background Papers**

- 1 Localism Act 2011
- 2 Co-operative Council Commissions Report 2012

## **15.0 Appendices**

None

Councillors who traded with the Council

**16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	08/07/2024	08/07/2024	RP
Finance	08/07/2024	09/07/2024	AEM