

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 1 OCTOBER 2020

FULL COUNCIL: 26 NOVEMBER 2020

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS WHO TRADED WITH THE COUNCIL DURING 2019/20

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 2019/20.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Audit Committee note the contents of the report and the information that is to be published on the Council's website.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 To improve transparency it was agreed in 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 2019/20.
- 3.3 This information will be published on the Council's website following presentation to the Audit Committee.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Audit Committee 20 September 2016 (2015/16)
Audit Committee 19 September 2018 (2016/17)
Audit Committee 24 July 2018 (2017/18)
Audit Committee 23 July 2019 (2018/19)

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, it was agreed by the Constitution Committee and full Council 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. It was also agreed that details would be 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 three Councillors were associated with companies (either owners or Directors) who received payments from the Council in 2019/20. These were:

- Councillor Stephen Burrell – Cllr Burrell is a Director of the company Peace of Mind Homecare. In the last financial year, Peace of Mind Homecare received payments in the sum of £423,455 from the Council in respect of services.
- Councillor Joy Francis (left office in May 2019) – Cllr Francis is the owner of Tortoise Day nursery and Managing Director of Smiley Faces Day Nursery. In the last financial year Tortoise Day Nursery and Smiley faces Day Nursery received a payment in the sum of £44,473. This payment relates to payment of nursery funding on behalf of the Government during the period the councillor was in office.
- Councillor C Healy – Cllr Healy is a Director of Red Kite Network. In the last financial year Red Kite Network Ltd received payments in the sum of £921.80 for their involvement in the Festival of Imagination. The company has also been successful in winning a tender to provided services at Horsehay Pool from April 2020.

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	The contents of this report are in line with the requirement contained in the Constitution that details of financial relationships between any elected member and the Council will be reported to Audit Committee and Full Council and published on the Council's website. This requirement is in addition to the legal requirement for elected members to complete details of their financial interests upon appointment and following any changes which is also published on the Council's website. AL 18/09/2020
Links with Corporate Priorities	The report supports the Council's values that 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. TAS 17.9.2020
Ward Implications	Borough wide

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Localism Act 2011

Co-operative Council Commissions Report 2012

