

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE 20 JULY 2021

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS WHO TRADED WITH THE COUNCIL DURING 2020/21

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 2020/21.

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 2020/21.
- 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 24 July 2018 (2017/18)
Audit Committee 23 July 2019 (2018/19)
Audit Committee 30 October 2020 (2019/20)

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) that traded with the Council in 2020/21. These were:
- Councillor Stephen Burrell – £531,825 in respect to 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 - £14,358 in respect to the company Red Kite Ltd. Councillor. Councillor Healy is a Director of this this company. Red Kite Ltd provide landscaping/environmental services.

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 [under The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012]. 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. KF 09/07/2021
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, the information is collected and reported on within Note 48. Related Parties – Members, as part of the final accounts process. AEM 05/07/2021.
Ward Implications	Borough wide

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Localism Act 2011

Co-operative Council Commissions Report 2012

Report prepared by Anthea Lowe – Monitoring Officer and Ken Clarke, Chief Financial Officer