

Audit and Standards Advisory Committee

Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 6.00 pm

This will be undertaken as an online virtual meeting.

The press and public are welcome to attend this online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting will be made available [here](#).

Membership:

Members

David Ewart (Chair)

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Lo (Vice-Chair)
Donnelly-Jackson
Long
Naheerathan
Kansagra
Akram
Johnson

Councillors:

Afzal, S Choudhary, Colacicco, Gbajumo, Kabir and
W Mitchell Murray

Councillors:
Colwill and Maurice

Independent Members

Margaret Bruce

Independent Advisor

Vineeta Manchanda

For further information contact: Craig Player, Governance Officer
Tel: 020 8937 2082; Email: craig.player@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/committees

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
 - To which you are appointed by the council;
 - which exercises functions of a public nature;
 - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item **Page**

1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.

3 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 6

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 08 September 2020 as a correct record.

5 Matters arising (if any)

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Standards Items

6 Standards Report (including gifts & hospitality) 7 - 20

To receive an update on gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Debra Norman
Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Tel: 020 8937 1578
Email: Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk

Bianca Robinson
Senior Constitutional & Governance Lawyer
Tel: 020 8937 1544
Email: Bianca.Robinson@brent.gov.uk

Audit Items

7 Treasury Management Mid-term Report 21 - 32

To receive an update on treasury activities for the first half of the financial year 2020/21.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Amanda Healey
Senior Finance Analyst
Tel: 020 89375912
Email: Amanda.healey@brent.gov.uk

8 Treasury Management Strategy 33 - 54

To receive the draft Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2021/22 for consideration. The final version of the TMS incorporating the views of the Committee will be include in the annual budget setting report to be presented to Cabinet.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Amanda Healey
Senior Finance Analyst
Tel: 020 89375912
Email: Amanda.healey@brent.gov.uk

9 Audit Findings Report 2019/20 Action Plan Recommendations - Management Response 55 - 58

To receive an update on the management response to the 2019/20 external audit findings report.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Daniel Omisore
Deputy Director of Finance
Tel: 020 8937 3057
Email: Daniel.omisore@brent.gov.uk

10 Review of the performance & management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd 59 - 82

To receive an update on the recent performance, business plan, risk register and audit arrangements of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Sadie East
Head of Transformation
Tel: 020 8937 1507
Email: Sadie.east@brent.gov.uk

11 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 83 - 94

To receive an update on progress against the Internal Audit Plan for the period 01 May to 31 October 2020.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Michael Bradley
Head of Audit & Investigations
Tel: 07920 581620
Email: Michael.bradley@brent.gov.uk

12 Counter Fraud Quarterly Report 95 - 102

To receive a summary of the counter fraud activity for 2020/21 up to Q2, and the impact of COVID-19 arrangements on the service.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Michael Bradley
Head of Audit & Investigations
Tel: 07920 581620
Email: Michael.bradley@brent.gov.uk

13 Corporate Risk Register Update 103 - 114

To receive an update on the Council's Risk Management position and an updated Corporate Risk Register.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Michael Bradley
Head of Audit & Investigations
Tel: 07920 581620
Email: Michael.bradley@brent.gov.uk

14 External Audit Annual Letter 115 - 140

To receive a report from Grant Thornton summarising the key findings arising from the work it has carried out at the Council and its subsidiaries for year ended 31 March 2020.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officers: Sophia Brown
Senior Audit Manager, Grant Thornton
Tel: 020 7728 3179
Email: Sophia.y.brown@uk.gt.com

15 External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update 141 - 172

To receive an update from Grant Thornton on progress in delivering its responsibilities as the Council's external auditors, along with a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to

Brent as a local authority.

Ward Affected:

All Wards

Contact Officers: Sophia Brown

Senior Audit Manager, Grant Thornton

Tel: 020 7728 3179

Email: Sophia.y.brown@uk.gt.com

16 Forward Plan

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To consider and note the Committee's Forward Plan.

17 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 11 February 2021