



# Audit and Standards Advisory Committee

**Monday 31 January 2022 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

Javed Ansari  
Mark Mills

### Independent Advisor

Vineeta Manchanda

**For further information contact:** Andrew Phillips, Governance Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 4219; Email: [Andrew.Phillips@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Phillips@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](http://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
<b>1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	
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.	
<b>3 Deputations (if any)</b>	
To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.	
<b>4 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	1-12
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2021 as a correct record.	
<b>5 Matters arising (if any)</b>	
To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
<b>Standards Items</b>	
None	
<b>Audit Items</b>	
<b>6 Internal Audit Progress Report</b>	13- 28
This report provides an update on progress against the Internal Audit Plan for the period October to December 2021.	
<b>7 Counter Fraud Progress Report</b>	29 – 36
The report sets out a summary of the counter fraud activity for 2021/22 to Q3.	

**8 External Audit Appointment for 2023/24 to 2028/29** 37 – 46

This report sets out proposals for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

**9 External Audit Progress Report** 47 – 54

This paper provides the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee with a report on Grant Thornton’s progress in delivering their responsibilities as external auditors.

**10 Forward Plan and Agenda for the next meeting** 55 – 56

To consider and note the Committee’s Forward Plan.

**11 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: Tuesday 15 March 2022**