

## **Audit and Standards Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 6.00 pm**

Conference Hall - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Please note this will be held as a physical meeting which all Committee members will be required to attend in person.

**The meeting will be open for the press and public to attend or alternatively can be followed via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available [HERE](#)**

### **Membership:**

#### **Members**

David Ewart (Independent Chair)

#### **Substitute Members**

#### **Councillors:**

Chan (Vice-Chair)  
Choudry  
Gbajumo  
Long  
Molloy  
J.Patel  
L.Smith

#### **Councillors:**

Agha, S Butt, Conneely, Ketan Sheth and T.Smith

#### **Councillors:**

Kansagra and Maurice

#### **Councillors**

Ethapemi and Farah

#### **Independent Co-opted Members**

Sebastian Evans, Rhys Jarvis and Stephen Ross

**For further information contact:** Harry Ellis, Governance Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 3287; Email: [harry.ellis@brent.gov.uk](mailto:harry.ellis@brent.gov.uk)

For electronic copies of minutes and agendas please visit:  
[Council meetings and decision making | Brent Council](#)

### **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 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 &amp; Action Log</b>	
4.1 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 3 December 2025 as correct.	To Follow
4.2 To note the updated Action Log from previous meetings of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.	1 - 4
<b>5 Matters arising (if any)</b>	
To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
<b>Standards Items</b>	
<b>6 Member Complaints &amp; Code of Conduct</b>	5 - 14
This report provides an annual review of the complaints received pursuant to, and a review of, the Members' Code of Conduct Complaints procedure.	
<b>Governance Items</b>	
<b>7 Update on progress following referral to Social Housing Regulator</b>	15 - 24
The purpose of the report is to update the Audit and Standards Advisory	

Committee on the progress made so far as a consequence of the Council's self-referral in April 2025 to the Regulator of Social Housing.

**8 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Update – Audit & Standards Advisory Committee Deep Dive** 25 - 36

To undertake a Deep Dive exploration on the subject of the strategic risk presented to Brent Council from the ongoing development of AI technology recognising the way in which Brent is expanding its use of AI and automation to enhance efficiency and modernise service delivery.

To assist in the review, a paper has been attached which outlines the strategic risks along with the gaps identified in a recent internal audit. It provides an in-depth overview of the newly added AI Strategic Risk within the Council's Strategic Risk Register and summarises the internal audit findings, governance improvements and planned actions designed to provide the necessary oversight and mitigation.

(Please note the agenda has been republished on 28 January 26 to include an updated version of the AI Strategic Risk Register attached as Appendix 1 to the report)

**Finance & External Audit Items**

**9 Internal Audit Interim Report 2025-26 - Addendum** 37 - 48

Further to feedback from the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 3 December 2025, this report provides an update on action owners, accepted recommendations, and implementation dates for audits reported as completed within the Interim Internal Audit Report. It also reinstates the 'Basis of Our Classifications' and 'Assurance Definitions' for clarification.

**10 Audit Progress Update** To Follow

To receive an update on the progress in finalising the External Audit Findings Report and Council's Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 25.

**11 Audit & Standards Advisory Committee Forward Plan & Work Programme 2025-26** 49 - 50

To consider the Audit and Standards Advisory Committees work programme 2025-26.

**12 Any other urgent business**

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance or their representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

**Date of the next meeting:            Tuesday 24 March 2026**



- Please remember to ***SWITCH OFF*** your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public. Alternatively, it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast [HERE](#)