

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS WHO TRADED WITH THE COUNCIL DURING 2015/16

JOINT REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to the Audit Committee the information to be published in respect to Councillors who traded with the Council during 2015/16.

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 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 2015/16.
- 3.3 This information will be published on the Council's website following presentation to the Audit Committee.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Council's Constitution Committee 4th September 2012
Council 19th September 2012 (2011/12)
Audit Committee 28th January 2014 (2012/13)
Audit Committee 16th September 2014 (2013/14)
Audit Committee 15th September 2015 (2014/15)

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 which go to the Audit Committee. This makes the information available to anyone who may wish to access the information.

- 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 received these sorts of payments from the Council in 2015/16. These were Councillor Stephen Burrell - £191,019 in respect to the company Peace of Mind Homecare and Councillor Lee Carter in respect to the company AFC Telford, the value of the payments, was £69,579 (excluding VAT), and included grant funding in respect of the Our Arlestone Community Development project (£25,510), payment by schools for the provision of Community football coaching schemes (£24,890), advertising (£1,055) and room hire (£18,124), together with a loan to the club of £45,000 to install a new fire alarm system and related works.

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. 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.
Links with Corporate Priorities	The report supports the Council's values which 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.
Ward Implications	Borough wide

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Localism Act 2011, Co-operative Council Commissions Report 2012
 Report prepared by Jonathan Eatough – Monitoring Officer and Ken Clarke, Chief Financial Officer