

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**AUDIT COMMITTEE 19th SEPTEMBER 2017****PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS WHO TRADED WITH THE COUNCIL DURING 2016/17****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 2016/17.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 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 2016/17.
- 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)
Audit Committee 20th September 2016 (2015/16)

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 The following Councillors were associated with companies who received payments from the Council in 2016/17:

- **Councillor Stephen Burrell** - £290,130 in respect to the company Peace of Mind Homecare
- **Councillor Lee Carter** in respect to the company AFC Telford, the value of the payments, was £11,867 (excluding VAT) for the full year 2016/17 although it should be noted that Cllr Carter stepped down from his role as Managing Director at AFC Telford on 8 August 2016. The payments to AFC Telford were in relation to community football coaching schemes and room hire. A loan to the club of £45,000 to install a new fire alarm system and related works was made during 2015/16, part of this has now been repaid.
- **Councillor Joy Francis** is the owner of Smiley Faces Day Nurseries. The Council administers the payment of 2/3/4 year old nursery place funding on behalf of the government. The money offsets the cost of this care to the parent and is deducted off their invoice. The Council made a total payment in relation to this of £87,042 during 2016/17 (2015/16 £113,483).
- **Councillor Mark Boylan** is a voluntary director of Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin and as such has no financial interest in the company. The Council pays Healthwatch a grant, which is partly funded by the Government, to help fund their work with the community on health matters. During 2016/17 the Council made payments totalling £108,333 (2015/16 £66,667).
- **Councillors Kuldeep Sahota and Clive Mason** are voluntary directors of Meeting Point Trust and as such have no financial interest in the company. The Council makes payments to the Trust in relation to Room Hire at Meeting Point House. During 2016/17 the Council made payments totalling £26,170 (2015/16 £33,477).

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	The report supports the Council's values which are embedded in the delivery

Corporate Priorities	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