



Walsall Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 6.00 P.M

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors: David Turner (Chairman)
Rose Martin (Vice-chairman)
Keith Chambers
Albert Griffiths
Desmond Pitt
Ian Robertson
Mrs. Doreen Shires

Quorum:

Three Members

Constitutional Services, The Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP
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Extract from Members' Code of Conduct

Personal interests

8. (1) A Member must regard himself/herself as having a personal interest in any matter if the matter relates to an interest in respect of which notification must be given under paragraphs 14 and 15 below, or if a decision upon it might reasonably be regarded as affecting to a greater extent than other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area, the well-being or financial position of himself/herself, a relative or a friend or –

- (a) any employment or business carried on by such persons;
- (b) any person who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any corporate body in which such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5,000; or
- (d) any body listed in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 15 below in which such persons hold a position of general control or management.

(2) In this paragraph:-

- (a) "relative" means a spouse, partner, parent, parent-in-law, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, child of a partner, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, or the spouse or partner of any of the preceding persons; and
- (b) "partner" in sub-paragraph (2)(a) above means a member of a couple who live together.

Disclosure of personal interests

9. (1) A Member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) Subject to paragraph 12(1)(b) below, a Member with a personal interest in any matter who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

Prejudicial Interests

10. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, a Member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

(2) A Member may regard himself/herself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if that matter relates to:-

- (a) another relevant authority of which he or she is a member;
- (b) another public authority in which he or she holds a position of general control or management;
- (c) a body to which he or she has been appointed or nominated by the authority as its representative;
- (d) the housing functions of the authority where the member holds a tenancy or lease with a relevant authority, provided that he or she does not have arrears of rent with that relevant authority of more than two months, and provided that those functions do not relate particularly to the Member's tenancy or lease;
- (e) the functions of the authority in respect of school meals, transport and travelling expenses, where the Member is a guardian or parent of a child in full time education, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- (f) the functions of the authority in respect of statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where the Member is in receipt of, or is entitled to the receipt of such pay from a relevant authority; and
- (g) the functions of the authority in respect of an allowance or payment made under Sections 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972 or Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Participation in relation to disclosed interests

12. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, a Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must:-

- (a) withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting, unless he or she has obtained a dispensation from the authority's Standards Committee;
- (b) not exercise executive functions in relation to that matter; and
- (c) not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.

(2) A Member with a prejudicial interest may, unless that interest is of a financial nature, and unless it is an interest of the type described in paragraph 11 above, participate in a meeting of the authority's:-

- (a) Scrutiny and Performance Panels; and
- (b) Joint or area committees,

to the extent that such Committees are not exercising functions of the authority or its Executive.

AGENDA

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes:-
 - (a) 29th June 2006
 - (b) 25th July 2006 (Special)

– Copies enclosed.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Deputations and Petitions.
5. Late items to be introduced by the Chairman.
6. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.

Non-Executive Functions:

7. The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Committee – Report of the Executive Director enclosed.
8. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – Submission of Internal Audit Reports – Report of the Executive Director enclosed.
(N.B. To be considered at the October meeting of the Committee)
9. Internal Audit: Activity for the year ending 31 March 2006 – Report of the Executive Director enclosed.

10. Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2004/05 – Progress against Action Plan – Report of the Executive Director enclosed.
11. Audit Progress Report – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
12. Audit and Inspection Plan – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
13. Preparation for the full implementation of the Children’s Act 2004 – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
14. Domiciliary Care Contracts – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
15. Management Arrangements for Data Quality – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
16. Strategic Housing Services – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
17. Sure Start Follow Up – Report of the Audit Commission enclosed.
18. Late Items (If Any).