

Agenda

Audit and Governance Committee

Friday, 2 October 2020, 10.30 am
Online Only

Notes:

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Worcestershire County Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to: Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting, conducting remotely by videoconferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via a link on the Council's website to the Council's Youtube [channel](#).

The Agenda papers and background papers can be accessed electronically on the Council's website. Members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings.

This document can be made available in other formats (large print, audio tape, computer disk and Braille) on request from Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 728713 or by emailing democraticServices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Audit and Governance Committee

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Membership: Mr N Desmond (Chairman), Mr R W Banks, Dr A J Hopkins, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P Middlebrough, Mr C Rogers, Mrs E B Tucker and Mrs R Vale

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Named Substitutes	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Public Participation <i>Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by e-mail indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case, 1 October 2020). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/e-mail address below.</i>	
4	Confirmation of Minutes To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2020. (previously circulated – pink pages)	
5	Local Audit Reviews and Guidance Note	1 - 24
6	Internal Audit Progress Report	25 - 32
7	Statutory accounts and Pension Fund 2019/20 - External Audit Findings Report	33 - 100
8	Annual Governance Statement 2019/20	101 - 118
9	Annual Statutory Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020	119 - 332
10	Income Management	333 - 338
11	Risk Management update	339 - 340
12	Work Programme	341 - 342

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To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Simon Lewis, Committee Officer on 01905 846621, slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 23 September 2020

Item No	Subject	Page No
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