



## Bishop Auckland Town Council

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Town Clerk: Sarah Harris

20 December 2022

### Members of the Finance Committee

Cllr David Wilson – Chair

Cllr Jamie Blackburn, Cllr Katie Eliot, Cllr Adam Zair and Cllr Sam Zair

You are hereby summoned to attend an extra ordinary meeting of **Bishop Auckland Town Council Finance Committee** on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 3.30pm, the Council Offices, 54 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland.**

It is requested that attendance needs to be registered with the Town Clerk prior to attending to ensure that the meeting space is large enough to accommodate everyone safely. To register attendance please call 01388 207110 or email [council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk](mailto:council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk) by 4pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

The Chairman advises members of the Council and the public that the meeting or part of the meeting may be recorded by audio and may be by video.

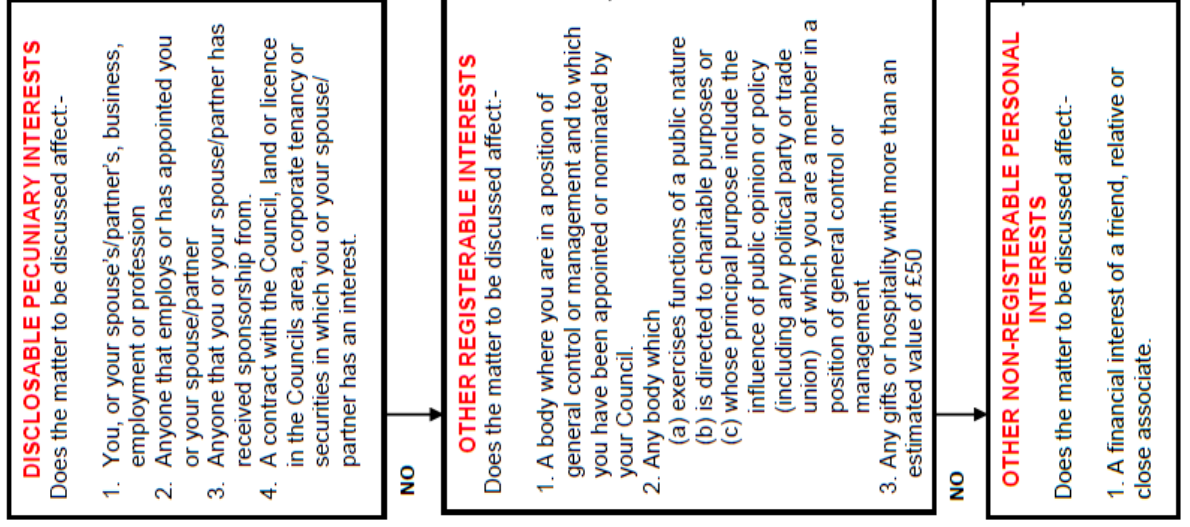
### AGENDA

1. Agree Notice of Motion to call the meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023
2. **Apologies for absence** - To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.
3. **Declarations of interest** - To record declarations of interest from members on any item on the agenda, including. any interest prejudicial or personal as recorded on the Members register of interests.
4. **Public Participation** - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)<sup>1</sup>.
5. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

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<sup>1</sup> The policy is available on the website at <https://bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk/council/constitution-and-policies/>

## DO I HAVE AN INTEREST?



### YOU SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

**You should take no part in the discussion or vote**

If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.  
Do not try to influence the decision.

This flowchart provides assistance for Councillors to help determine whether you have an interest in a matter being discussed at a Council meeting.

However it is a Councillors own responsibility to comply with the Code of Conduct and declare an interest where appropriate.

**Failure to disclose or register a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.**

### SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE AN OTHER REGISTERABLE INTEREST

You should not vote on the matter but you may make representations or answer questions about the matter if members of the public can do so.

If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.

### DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A NON-REGISTERABLE PERSONAL INTEREST

You should not vote on the matter but you may make representations or answer questions about the matter if members of the public can do so. If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.

**You can participate in the meeting and vote**

**Finance Committee  
25 January 2023  
Internal Auditor**

At the Finance Committee in December we talked about Audit for this current year, our previous auditor Mike Ackryod isn't able undertake this service for the Town Council. The Clerk was tasked with getting alternative option, one of which being Durham County Council and a local accountancy firm.

The Clerk priced another local highly recommended auditor who has Town Council experience, and e is able to take it on cost would be £250 but would also include a 6 month review, which is best practice for a Council.

DCC have withdrawn their Internal Audit services from Town and Parish Councils, as they are struggling with workloads, and there is a national shortage of Internal Auditors. Town Clerk went to a SLCC branch meeting last week where this was the single item topic, on Audit Services due to DCC withdrawing services to Town and Parish Councils. Therefore, there is a number of other Councils are also struggling to find services, with the main issue being that whilst it is an internal audit it does differ to a standard one as it is required for the AGAR so local council essential when appointing someone.

Local firm do, local council audits. The Clerk has requested a price and they quoting £1500 net of vat do deliver this service.

Due to the industry pressure and need to get arrangements in place as soon as possible, hence the need to call this extra meeting.

**Recommendations:** To appoint an internal auditor for 2022-23.