

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b> <b>16 MAY 2023</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 16 MAY 2023 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Fred Grindrod in the Chair;

Councillors Shabrana Hussain, Meirion Jenkins, Amar Khan, Miranda Perks and Paul Tilsley

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

583 The Chair advised, and the meeting noted that new technology and broadcasting system was being used at this meeting. Microphones will be used during the public session of the meeting and whilst in private session it was advised to refrain from using the microphone facility.

The Chair advised and the Committee noted this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

**The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.**

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**APOLOGIES**

584 No apologies were submitted.

At 1402, Councillor Khan joined the meeting.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

585 There were declarations of interest made.

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**EXEMPT INFORMATION – POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised there would be a private discussion for item 5, the Report on Oracle Implementation. This was exempt under Schedule 12A s3 Local Government Act 1972 - Commercially sensitive information.

At this juncture, Councillor Jenkins queried the reasons why this item was going to be discussed in private. He felt the public should have knowledge around this area.

The Chair emphasised this question can be asked under item 5 as this would need to be noted first and then move to a private session.

Members of the Committee agreed the exempt information and reasons listed on the agenda and report.

Upon consideration, it was:

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**RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation order) 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

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**REPORT ON ORACLE IMPLEMENTATION**

The Chair made introductory comments and informed members that report was from the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and the Interim Director of Finance & S151 Officer. Members were informed that officers would update the Committee of the actions being taken to ensure difficulties encountered with the implementation of the Oracle Cloud ERP system were remedied to improve the internal functions relating to financial management and human resources.

Members were informed that some of the material would be commercially sensitive and would be provided in accordance with Schedule 12A s3 Local Government Act 1972 therefore, the meeting would be moving into a private discussion.

The Chair checked with the Committee if they were content with this.

At this juncture, Councillor Jenkins requested for a formal vote to take place for a private session. In addition, he questioned why the public should be denied access to the information.

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The City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer advised there were reasons for commercial sensitivity and business interests for the Council therefore it was not practical for this information to be shared in public domain.

This was exempt under section 3 of the Local Government Act which is commercially sensitivity involving transactions for the Council.

Councillor Tilsley referred to the same point made by Councillor Jenkins as it was felt the report shared for item 5 did not contain any commercial sensitivity however, he noted the presentation to be delivered by officers in the private session would have some commercial sensitivity.

Councillor Jenkins requested for a formal vote to take place on this item.

Vote for a private session for item 5;

Upon being put to a vote it was 4 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

At 1407 hours, the Committee moved to a private session.

587 **RESOLVED:-**

The Audit Committee noted the details contained with the Oracle Implementation report.

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

588 **RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Exempt Paragraph 3 - Schedule 12A s3 Local Government Act 1972 - Commercially sensitive information.

Item 5 - The Report on Oracle Implementation

**(Note: Minute 589 & 590 is in private)**

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**RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

591 At 1614 hours, following discussions on item 5, the report on Oracle Implementation, the Committee moved back into the public meeting.

At this juncture, Councillor Jenkins shared that the discussion should not have been held in private as he felt there was no commercial information shared. This Chair noted the point made by Councillor Jenkins.

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**EXTERNAL AUDITORS UPDATE**

The Key Partner, External Auditors provided a summary for the Committee. Matters related to the Oracle Implementation was discussed in the private session. The feature had been the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial statement audits which were still to be signed off. The Annual Governance Statement and Capital accounting may have a bearing on the audits.

This also features in the 2021/22 Value for money Audits. Risk related to IT had been flagged. This would be reflected in the Annual Governance responsibilities.

For the 2022/23 Audit planning, this was a fundamental aspect. Draft accurate accounts were expected to be submitted.

No comments were made by Members.

Upon consideration, it was:

592 **RESOLVED:-**

The Audit Committee noted the updates from the External Auditors.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

593 None

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

594 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

595 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 at 1400 hours in the Committee Room 6, Council House, Birmingham.

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The meeting ended at 1617 hours.

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CHAIR