

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2016**

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Note

At the meeting, a time period of up to 30 minutes, is available for public questions and comments in total. If they wish the questioner at the meeting may ask one supplementary question to the original question, which will be answered without discussion. The supplementary question must be relevant to the original question put to the Chairman.

Qn No	Item No	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1.	7 – Internal Audit Exception Recommendations and Progress Report Q2 - 1st July – 30th September 2016	Mr Nicholas Dixon	Could you please briefly describe what risks of fraud have been identified within Barnet Planning/ Re, and Barnet Planning's tried and tested "sound system of internal control" for the prevention/ minimisation of fraud, and how that system is triggered for use.	It is not in the Council's interest to publically disclose information relating to fraud risks, fraud indicators or fraud triggers within the working processes of the planning department, or any other department.

2.	7 – Internal Audit Exception Recommendations and Progress Report Q2 - 1st July – 30th September 2016	Mr Nicholas Dixon	<p>Given that the fraud policy states that council officials should work within the letter and SPIRIT of the laws and regulations with which they deal, could the committee please close a loophole, which could be routinely exploited by wrongdoers to cheat honest, decent residents in the planning process?</p> <p>The loophole in question allows requisite notice to be given retrospectively, instead of before application to build, and therefore, before building, when it was properly intended. Before building, it has a deterrent, negotiation, advisory and time value. Afterwards it is useless. To give requisite notice retrospectively is simply a scam, harmful to the residents and area, making building first and applying for permissions later, if at all, positively advantageous in Barnet.</p>	<p>The Council's planning policy has been developed in accordance with the 'Town and Country Planning Act'. The Council has no authority to change the legislation regarding retrospective planning permission. Any suggested changes should be directed towards parliament.</p>
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