

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Thursday 14 July 2016 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02C - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Fleming (Chair)
Councillor James Barber
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Reserve)

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jennifer Seeley, Director of Finance
Mike Pinder, Head of Anti Fraud and Internal Audit
Jo Anson, Head of Financial and Information Governance
Dick Frak, Interim Head of Commissioning
Simon Mitchell, Senior Commissioning Manager
Fay Hammond, Departmental Finance Manager
Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team
Maureen McBain, Corporate Risk and Insurance Manager
Laura Sandy, Insurance Manager
Angela Mason-Bell, Manager, RSM
Chris Harris, Partner, RSM
Nick Taylor, Senior Audit Manager, Grant Thornton
Victoria Foreman, Constitutional Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hamish McCallum, Renata Hamvas and Andy Simmons. Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle attended as a reserve for Councillor Simmons.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor James Barber.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as present were confirmed as voting members of the committee.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 22 February 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. REPORT ON RETROSPECTIVE CONTRACT-RELATED DECISION

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the retrospective contract decision detailed in the report be noted.
2. That the actions taken by the strategic director of children's and adult services as set out in paragraph 10, to ensure that the risk of future retrospective contract decisions is minimised for the future, be noted.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

That the draft annual governance statement 2015-16, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report and subject to minor amendments, be noted.

8. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

Members asked that their thanks to officers for completion of the work on the accounts be recorded.

RESOLVED:

That the draft statement of accounts for 2015/16, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be noted.

9. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CORPORATE RISK AND INSURANCE TEAM 2015-16

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

Members requested a briefing note from officers on the insurance arrangements regarding the 2013 Walworth Town Hall fire.

RESOLVED:

That the annual report on the work of the corporate risk and insurance team in 2015-16 be noted.

10. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD FOR THE YEAR 2015-16, PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD TEAMS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2016

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

Members asked that their thanks to officers for the excellent work on Operation Bronze and congratulations on the receipt of the Keith Hughes Award (also for Operation Bronze) be recorded.

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual report on the work of internal audit and anti-fraud for the year 2015-16 be noted.
2. That the progress report on the work of the internal audit and anti-fraud teams for the period 1 February 2016 to 30 June 2016 be noted.
3. That the updated internal audit charter, attached to the report at Appendix A, be approved.
4. That the proactive anti-fraud plan for 2016, attached to the report at Appendix B, be noted.

11. GRANT THORNTON AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE JULY 2016 AND AUDIT FEE LETTER 2016/17

Grant Thornton introduced the report. Members had questions of Grant Thornton.

RESOLVED:

1. That Grant Thornton's audit, governance and standards committee update, as attached to the report at Appendix 1, be noted.
2. That Grant Thornton's audit fee letter for 2016-17 work, as attached to the report at Appendix 2, be noted.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2016-17

Officers introduced the report. Members asked questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the roles and functions of the audit, governance and standards committee and its sub-committees, as attached to the report at Appendix 1 and agreed by annual council assembly on 14 May 2016, be noted.
2. That a civic awards sub-committee with three Labour and one Liberal Democrat places be established, and Councillors Catherine Dale and James Barber be appointed as chair and vice-chair of the sub-committee respectively.
3. That the number of co-opted community members on the civic awards sub-committee be increased from three to four.
4. That the civic awards sub-committee membership be gender balanced with at least two of the Southwark members and two of the community representatives serving on the sub-committee being women.
5. That a conduct sub-committee to consider complaints of misconduct against councillors (and co-opted members), as set out in paragraph 12 of the report, be established.

13. REVISED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-17

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed revised work programme for 2016-17, including planned coverage of governance topics for the year as set out below, be noted:
 - School building and communications team - September 2016
 - Local government pensions and public health - November 2016
 - IT - February 2017.
2. That the work programme for 2016-17 be agreed subject to standards issues currently listed for November 2016 being amended for consideration at the meeting of the committee to be held in February 2017.
3. That informal training sessions on the council's contracts and borrowing be held before the meetings of the committee scheduled for September and November 2016 respectively.

The meeting ended at 8.44pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: