

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Doreen Forrester-Brown, director of law and governance
Timothy Jones, departmental finance manager
Rob Woollatt, departmental finance manager
Geraldine Chadwick, interim senior finance manager
Richard Selley, director of customer experience
Tim Green, IT shared services
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Nick Baker, BDO
Ciaran McLaughlin, Grant Thornton
Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Bruce and Greg Rubin. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Michael Situ.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members present were confirmed as the voting members.

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

The chair agreed to accept:

- Item 9, Grant Thornton - Audit findings report: Draft 2020-21 statement of accounts

- for Southwark council
- Item 13, a verbal update on members' induction, and
- Item 14, Capital and treasury management strategy 2022-23

as late and urgent.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 20 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7. SHARED TECHNOLOGY SERVICES UPDATE

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions for the officers.

Officers undertook to update the committee on the progress of the audit and on the transition of IT support at a future meeting.

Officers undertook to check the IT situation in Queens Road offices.

RESOLVED:

That the committee:

- a) Noted the responses to the questions raised in Appendix 1 of the report
- b) Noted the contents of the relevant IAA sections and the Major Incident process as attached in Appendices A, B & C to Appendix 1 of the report.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

BDO introduced the report. Members had questions of BDO.

Members congratulated officers and the audit team for a strong audit outcome.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the report.

9. GRANT THORNTON - AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT: DRAFT 2020-21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

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

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the updated 2020-21 Audit Findings Report for the main accounts and Pension Fund (appendices 1 and 2 of the report).

10. RETENDER OF EXTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACTS

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

11. COVID-19 PANDEMIC: UPDATE NOVEMBER 2021

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the report.

12. WHISTLEBLOWING COMPLAINTS AND OUTCOMES

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the report.

13. MEMBERS' INDUCTION

Officers introduced the item. Members had questions of the officers.

Officers undertook to bring a detailed plan for members' induction to the next meeting of the audit, governance and standards committee.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

14. CAPITAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-23

Officers introduced the report. Members had questions of the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the report.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: