

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

Saturday 20 May 2023
12.00 pm

Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to consider the business contained herein

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Virginia Wynn-Jones on 020 7525 7055 or email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk

Date: 12 May 2023



Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

Saturday 20 May 2023
12.00 pm
Southwark Cathedral

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS	
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.	
3.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
4.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any personal interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
5.	FORMATION OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2023-24	1 - 4
	ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT	

Item No.

Title

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

Date: 12 May 2023

Item No. 5	Classification: Open	Date: 20 May 2023	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Formation of audit, governance and standards sub-committees for 2023-24	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee appoint three members to form the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee.
2. That the committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.
3. That the committee appoint four members to form the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee.
4. That the committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. Southwark Council's constitution sets out as part of the role and responsibilities of the audit, governance and standards committee to establish the following sub-committees:
 - standards sub-committee; to consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members
 - civic awards sub-committee; to consider civic awards.
6. The responsibilities of these two sub-committees are excerpted from the constitution below:

PART 3K: AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Matters reserved for decision by the conduct sub-committee

40. To consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members.

Matters reserved for decision by the civic awards sub-committee

41. To grant civic awards.

42. To consider the process by which the decisions with respect to civic awards applications are to be taken and to make recommendations to the audit, governance and standards committee.

43. To appoint non-voting co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The membership for these sub-committees is drawn from the main committee.
8. There is one meeting of the civic awards sub-committee, around February of each year to discuss and agree the grants of civic awards.
9. The standards sub-committee meets when it is required on an ad hoc basis; it has been required once in the past five years.
10. The meeting of the audit, governance and standards committee of 14 July 2016 recommended that the civic awards sub-committee be gender-balanced, with at least two of the Southwark members and two of the community representatives serving on the sub-committee being women. This is not a constitutional requirement.
11. Sub-committees are not 'ordinary' committees and are each considered individually for the purposes of proportionality. So far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, the allocation of seats a sub-committee should bear the same proportion to the number of the seats held by that group on the council. The audit, governance and standards committee can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.
12. The most proportionate allocation will depend on the number of members of the sub-committee. The following sub-committee sizes would provide the following allocation of places:

Sub-committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	4	3	1
Audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee	3	2	1

Co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee

13. The Southwark civic awards scheme was initiated in 1997 for the purposes of recognising exceptional contributions to community life by individuals and organisations in the borough. Up until 2015, the scheme was administered on behalf of the council by the Southwark Civic Association which made recommendations to standards committee for the granting of civic awards.

14. Council assembly on 8 July 2015 resolved that from the 2015/2016 civic year, the administration of the civic awards be carried out by the council pending a longer term review of the operation of the awards scheme. Officers were requested to put in place the necessary arrangements for the running of the awards within existing council resources. Council assembly in 2016 also resolved that the decisions on the granting of civic awards be delegated to a sub-committee of the audit, governance and standards committee.
15. The audit, governance and standards committee agreed at its meeting of 14 July 2016 that the membership of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee (henceforth "civic awards sub-committee") must include four co-opted members, two of whom must be women.
16. Recommendations for the position of co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee will be sought from members of the audit, governance and standards committee in 2023.

Resource implications

17. There are none.

Community impact statement

18. Clear arrangements concerning the accountability of members are very important for promoting high standards of conduct. In addition it is important in aiding the decision-making process and helping to boost public confidence in the council. These arrangements ensure that members of the public are aware of the process in place to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained within the council.
19. The council is committed to promoting civic engagement and good relations in our communities. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Council Constitution	Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 May 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	12 May 2023	

**AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST
(OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MAY 2023**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors	12	Press Southwark News South London Press Group Offices Jack Beddoe, Labour Group Office Euan Cadzow-Webb, Liberal Democrat Group Office	by email by email
		Officers Althea Loderick Duncan Whitfield Doreen Forrester-Brown Chidilim Agada Caroline Bruce David Quirke-Thornton Michael Scorer Sangeeta Leahy Clive Palfreyman	by email by email by email by email by email by email by email by email
		Constitutional Team (Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2 nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)	8
		Others Matt Dean, Grant Thornton Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street	by email
		Total: Last updated: May 2023	20