



Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 2 June 2025 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Clive Palfreyman, strategic director of resources
Darren Summers, strategic director of integrated health and care
Claire Belgard, assistant director of commissioning
Fabio Negro, managing director, shared technology service
Tee Patel, cyber security lead
Ben Plant, director of people and organisational development
Stephanie Bryan, head of learning and development
Graham Elder, learning and development
Aaron Winter, BDO
Philip Kent, KPMG
Kunal Malhotra, KPMG
Geraldine Chadwick, assistant director of finance (corporate)
Paul Bergin, fraud manager
Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Nick Johnson, and from Angela Mason-Bell, BDO.

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 8: Member development framework and an addendum to Item 9: Internal audit progress report as late and urgent.

The chair also noted the circulated presentation from the strategic director of integrated health and care.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on 3 February 2025 and 17 May 2025.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATED HEALTH AND CARE

Darren Summers, strategic director of integrated health and care and Claire Belgard, assistant director of commissioning, attended the committee.

The committee had questions for the strategic director. The committee thanked officers for their attendance.

7. CYBER SECURITY & THIRD-PARTY SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

Officers undertook to provide a list of all third party suppliers to the committee for the November 2025 meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the actions being taken in response to the BDO Audit, and their current status.
2. That the committee noted the new Head of Cyber Security in post.

8. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

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

Officers undertook to consider a specific training stream for committee chairs and neighbourhood champions as well as cabinet members.

Officers undertook to bring back an update to the committee in February 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee noted:

1. the intended approach to developing a new Member Development Program to achieve Local Government Association (LGA) Councillor Development Charter Status
2. the creation of a Member Development Steering Group to feed into the member development and 2026 induction programmes

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT JUNE 2025 AND DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

The internal auditors presented the report. Members had questions of the internal auditors.

Members congratulated the Mayor's office and the Change, Grow, Live service (substance misuse team) on their substantial assurances in audit.

Members thanked the internal auditors for including the schools summary report. This was noted as a very positive piece of work, particularly for sharing with the governors' forum.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the update reports, as attached at Appendix A, B and C of the report.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the draft annual report and statement of assurance 2024-25, as attached at Appendix D of the report.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN & STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL 2024-25

The external auditors presented the report. Members had questions for the external auditors.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards Committee noted the external audit plan for 2024-25 for Southwark council, as attached at Appendix A of the report.
2. That the audit, governance and standards Committee noted the external audit plan for 2024-25 for Southwark Pension Fund, as attached at Appendix B of the report.

11. CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD TEAM AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM YEAR END REPORT 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and the Special Investigations Team (SIT) Year End Report 2024-25.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERSHIP OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2025-26

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee appointed the below members to form the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee:

Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Adam Hood

2. That the committee appointed Councillor Michael Situ as chair of the sub-committee.
3. That the committee appointed the below members to form the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
Councillor Margy Newens

4. That the committee appointed Councillor Barrie Hargrove as chair of the sub-committee.

13. IN YEAR REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26: JUNE 2025

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the proposed work programme for 2025-26.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee agreed the work programme set out in Appendix 1 for 2025-26 subject to the following changes:

July 2025:

Move member induction and training to February 2026

Move retrospective approval on communal lighting to September 2025

Include a new report on compliance with the CIPFA Management Code

3. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the change of committee

date from Monday 2 February 2026 to Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Meeting ended at 8.25 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: