



Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 14 July 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 Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT:

OFFICER

SUPPORT:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Adam Hood, and Angela Mason-Bell, BDO.

1. 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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 2 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

6. 2025-26 Q1 REPORT OF THE CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD TEAM AND THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM

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

Officers undertook to ensure the SIT team circulated an email summary of the 44 tenancies' issues to members of the committee.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the 2025-26 Q1 report of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and the Special Investigations Team (SIT).

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2025 AND FINAL ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

The internal auditors introduced the report. Members had questions for the auditors.

RESOLVED:

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

8. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT 2023-24 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the progress on implementation of recommendations made by the external auditors, KPMG, in their annual reports for the 2023-24 statement of accounts and Pension Fund (appendix A of the report). Specific actions are recorded against itemised recommendations are set out in appendix B of the report.

9. GOVERNANCE REVIEW: RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Clive Palfreyman, strategic director of resources, attended the meeting. Members had questions for the strategic director.

The committee thanked the strategic director for attending.

10. SOUTHWARK DRAFT UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the draft unaudited statement of accounts 2024-25 (appendix B of the report). These will be presented to the committee again later in November alongside the audit opinion for formal approval.

11. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2024-25 as attached at Appendix A of the report.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

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

RESOLVED:

The committee noted the report.

13. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT UPDATE

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

Officers undertook to bring information from housing about the void policy to the committee by email.

Officers undertook to raise the committee's questions with the housing department.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the report.

14. IN YEAR REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26: JULY 2025

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

Officers undertook to include items in future agendas this year on:

- Complaints and customer service, including member enquiries
- Housing asset management

Members undertook to consider which areas of a department were of specific interest to them before each governance conversation, to allow the relevant chief officer to bring a guided update for the committee.

Following the committee meeting, it was noted that the chief executive will be unable to attend the September meeting, so this will be rearranged in discussion with the chair.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the proposed work programme for 2025-26.

Meeting ended at 8.00 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

[CABINET ONLY]

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, [DATE].

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE CABINET BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.

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