

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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

OFFICER SUPPORT: Duncan Whitfield, strategic director of finance and governance
Michael Scorer, strategic director of housing and modernisation
Laura Sandy, finance and governance
Geraldine Chadwick, finance and governance
Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team
Matt Dean, Grant Thornton
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Nick Baker BDO
Greg Rubin, BDO

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Tom Flynn.

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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: MICHAEL SCORER

Michael Scorer, the strategic director of housing and modernisation, spoke to the committee. The committee had questions for the strategic director.

7. CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

Officers introduced the report alongside item 8, Lessons learned from Grant Thornton's public interest reports. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted that the council has reviewed compliance against the CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code.

8. LESSONS LEARNED FROM GRANT THORNTON'S PUBLIC INTEREST REPORTS

Officers introduced the report alongside item 7, CIPFA financial management code. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report and acknowledged the importance of compliance against the CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code.

9. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD

BDO introduced the report. Members had questions for BDO.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.

10. DRAFT INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT

BDO introduced the report. Members had questions for BDO.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report, as attached

at Appendix A of the report.

11. AUDIT FEE LETTERS - INDICATIVE FEES AND PLANNED WORK OUTPUTS (INCLUDING PENSION FUND)

Officers introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.

12. INFORMING THE AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE COUNCIL (INCLUDING PENSION FUND)

Officers introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.

13. COVID UPDATE

Officers introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the end of year position of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on spending and income and the government grants to support the council's financial losses.

14. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Officers introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee note the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020-21 as attached at Appendix 1.

15. FORMATION OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2021-22

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee appointed Councillors Humaira Ali, James McAsh and Michael Situ to form the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee.
2. That the committee appointed Councillor Michael Situ as chair of the sub-committee.
3. That the committee appointed Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle, Tom Flynn, Graham Neale, and Andy Simmons to form the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee.
4. That the committee appointed Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle as chair of the sub-committee.
5. That the committee considered the nominations for the positions of co-opted members of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee outlined in closed Appendix 1 and agreed that the following be invited to act as co-opted members of the sub-committee:
 - Pauline Nandoo
 - Nicholas Okwulu
 - Katy Woolley
 - A representative of the Southwark Civic Society.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON CORPORATE RISK AND INSURANCE

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the annual report on corporate risk and insurance.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee reviewed the current corporate risk register and provided comments to officers for their consideration prior to the publication of the register by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance.

16. FORMATION OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2021-22

The decision for this item is listed in the open item.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: