

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 7 February 2022 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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

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, Internal audit plan and strategy for internal audit and internal audit charter
- Item 12, Member induction programme May 2022
- Item 17, Annual work programme for following year (2022-23)

As late and urgent.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: ELEANOR KELLY

Eleanor Kelly, the chief executive, presented to the committee. The committee thanked her for her work.

7. AUDIT PLANS (INCLUDING PENSION FUND)

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

Officers undertook to bring an update on the outstanding audit actions from 2017/18 and 2019/20 to the committee in June 2022.

RESOLVED:

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

8. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND STRATEGY FOR INTERNAL AUDIT AND INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.
2. That the committee consider any amendments they would like to suggest to the draft internal audit plan, and made none.

9. ANNUAL REPORT ON CORPORATE RISK AND INSURANCE 2021-22

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.

10. COVID-19 PANDEMIC: UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on spending and income and the government grants to support the council's financial losses in 2021-22.

11. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUDITOR

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee recommended to council assembly the invitation to opt into the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years from 1 April 2023, subject to PSAA assurances that issues relating to the procurement of external auditors include (amongst other matters), as highlighted in paragraph 9 of the report, will be resolved in a timely manner.

12. MEMBER INDUCTION PROGRAMME MAY 2022

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

Members thanked officers for their work.

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee noted the establishment of the director-led Member Induction and Learning & Development Task & Finish Group.
2. That the committee noted the objectives and outcomes for the Member Induction and Learning & Development Programme 2022.
3. That the committee noted and approved the draft Member Induction and Learning & Development Programme 2022.

13. REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Officers undertook to email members with the outcomes of two listed complaints.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

14. REPORT ON THE OPERATIONAL USE OF THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE IN 2021-22

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee forward this report on its work and performance in 2021-22 to all councillors, subject to any amendments it wishes to make.
2. That the committee considered the template self-assessment form and responded to the statements.

16. CONFIRMATION OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22

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

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, as the chair of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee, agreed to recommend potential candidates for future years' co-opted members to officers.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

17. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR FOLLOWING YEAR (2022-23)

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

Officers undertook to add an update on procurement to come to the committee in 2023-24.

Officers undertook to arrange a further meeting of the audit, governance and standards committee for 2021-22 to engage with strategic directors who had been unable to attend previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee considered the proposed draft work programme for 2022-23 and agreed to maintain the arrangements for governance conversations set out in the report.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee agreed the work programme for 2022-23 set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

Meeting ended at 8.35 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: