

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 18 July 2022 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor John Batteson (reserve)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Emily Tester

OFFICER SUPPORT: Duncan Whitfield
Caroline Bruce
Doreen Forrester-Brown
Tim Jones
Geraldine Chadwick
Matt Dean, GT
Ciaran McLaughlin, GT
Greg Rubins, BDO
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Virginia Wynn-Jones

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah King.

Councillors Gavin Edwards, Graham Neale, Michael Situ and Emily Tester were in attendance virtually, due to the extreme weather warning; and were unable to take part in formal voting. The chair agreed that they took part in the debate.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members present in the room 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, 2021/22 External audit plan
- Item 9, Auditor's annual report on Southwark Council 2020/21

As late and urgent.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings on 17 March 2022 and 21 May 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: CAROLINE BRUCE

Caroline Bruce, the strategic director of environment and leisure, presented to the committee.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove as the chair of the committee undertook to discuss the insourcing of the leisure contract with OSC to consider which committee is better placed to support the governance of this contract.

The committee thanked Caroline for her attendance.

7. INFORMING THE AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT FOR LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK AND PENSION FUND 2021/22

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. 2021-22 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON SOUTHWARK COUNCIL 2020-21

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

Duncan Whitfield undertook to update the committee on when a more detailed report will be available.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2021-22

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

The internal auditors undertook to bring the updated report with management responses to the next meeting of the committee.

The internal auditors undertook to update red/amber/green codes to be clear in black and white printing.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-22

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13. COVID-19 PANDEMIC: UPDATE JULY 2022

Officers updated the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

Members thanked Geraldine Chadwick for bringing this report throughout the pandemic

lockdown period.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14. FORMATION OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2022-23

RESOLVED:

That the memberships of the audit, governance and standards sub-committees be established as follows:

Civic Awards sub-committee:

Cllr Barrie Hargrove (Chair)

Cllr Andy Simmons

Cllr Sarah King

Cllr Graham Neale

Conduct sub-committee:

Cllr Michael Situ (Chair)

Cllr Sarah King

Cllr Graham Neale

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: