

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 6 February 2023 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Althea Loderick, chief executive
Duncan Whitfield, strategic director of finance and governance
Doreen Forrester-Brown, director of law and governance
Ben Plant, director of HR
Stephanie Bryan, HR
Tim Jones, finance
Geraldine Chadwick, finance
Toni Ainge, director of leisure
Dave Pugh, leisure
Laura Sandy, risk management and insurance
Greg Rubins, BDO
Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Emily Tester.

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.

The chair agreed to vary the order of business to hear item 11 before item 10, and item 6 after item 11.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of 22 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: ALTHEA LODERICK

Althea Loderick, the chief executive, presented to the committee. The committee had questions for the chief executive.

The committee thanked the chief executive for attending.

7. LEISURE INSOURCING - PROGRESS UPDATE

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

Officers undertook to look into the anecdotal issues with the swimming pool in Dulwich and update members by email.

RESOLVED:

That the information in the report and attached appendix to the report is noted.

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

BDO presented the report. Members had questions for the auditors.

RESOLVED:

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

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

BDO presented the report. Members had questions for the auditors.

RESOLVED:

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

10. FEEDBACK ON INDUCTION PROCESS FOR NEW MEMBERS 2023

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

Members undertook to email Ben Plant, HR director, with feedback on the induction programme.

Officers undertook to consider and respond to feedback offered by members in supporting current training and future induction programmes.

Officers undertook to bring back the members' induction programme for the 2026 elections to the committee earlier in the design process, in early/mid 2025.

RESOLVED:

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

11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

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

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee note the annual report on corporate risk and insurance.

12. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Officers undertook to circulate the report to all councillors with a confirmation of how to get in touch with the monitoring officer and her team for support and advice.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee note the report.

13. REPORT ON OPERATIONAL USE OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT

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

Officers undertook to confirm that test purchases do not fall under RIPA legislation and reporting requirements.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee note the information relating to the use of RIPA in 2022.

14. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR (2023-24)

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

Officers undertook to request the head of scrutiny to email members with the results of the scrutiny review.

Members supported inviting those officers whose audit implementation dates have slipped, as recommended by internal audit, to attend the committee.

Members requested specific topics to be added to the agenda:

- June 2023: Members' enquiries
- November 2023: Leisure insourcing or IT
- February 2024: Leisure insourcing or IT

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee considered the proposed draft work programme for 2023-24 and made amendments to arrangements as set out in the minutes.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee, subject to any requested changes, agreed the work programme for 2023-24 set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE IN 2022-23

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee forward this report on its work and performance in 2022-23 to all councillors.
2. That the committee consider the template self-assessment form and respond to the statements.

At the close of the open session of the meeting, the chair and committee voted their thanks to Duncan Whitfield for his support through the years, and wished him well in his departure from Southwark Council.

16. NOMINATIONS OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23

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 to select three of the nominations plus the position held for the Civic Society.

17. NOMINATIONS OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23: CLOSED

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: