

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 17 July 2023 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Andy Simmons

OFFICER SUPPORT: Clive Palfreyman, strategic director of finance
Doreen Forrester-Brown, assistant chief executive – governance and assurance
Aaron Winter, BDO
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Nick Baker, BDO
Gavin Blackburn, Planning
Ian Ogden, Planning
Allan Wells, Legal
Geraldine Chadwick, Finance
Tim Jones, Finance
Amarjit Uppal, Finance
Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Graham Neale.

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 no items of business the chair deemed urgent.

The chair agreed to vary the order of business to hear items 13: Review of communication protocol and 14: Review of the members' code of conduct, after item 8: Internal audit update: Garages.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 6 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE REVIEW: FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Clive Palfreyman, the strategic director of finance, presented to the committee. The committee had questions for the strategic director.

The committee thanked the strategic director for attending.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE: S106

Officers presented to the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

Officers confirmed that the audit recommendations were ready for implementation.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE: GARAGES

Officers presented to the committee. Members had questions for the officers.

Officers confirmed that the audit recommendations were ready for implementation.

Officers undertook to update the committee confirming the status of the garages waiting list at the end of August 2023.

Officers undertook to explore using this system for parking/other areas.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT: JULY 2023

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

The committee undertook to raise the issue of low completion rates of safeguarding training with senior officers.

The committee recommended that Delawick TMO be written to in congratulations of the outcomes of their audit.

Officers undertook to invite officers responsible for significant outstanding audit responses

at August 2023 to the audit, governance and standards committee in September 2023.

Officers undertook to invite the director of education to the audit, governance and standards committee in September 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2022-23

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

11. DRAFT 2022-23 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

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

Officers undertook to ensure that the public accounts visible on the council's website have a note visible confirming the national infrastructure issues which delayed signoff.

Officers undertook to invite the Grant Thornton, the council's external auditors, to the audit, governance and standards committee in September 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

12. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022-23

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee agreed the annual governance statement.

13. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

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

Officers took feedback from members on the suggested wording of the communications protocol.

Officers undertook to bring the updated communications protocol back to the committee in

November 2023, including responses to members' feedback.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

14. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

15. FORMATION OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2023-24: CONDUCT SUB-COMMITTEE

Officers introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee reserved their decision on the membership of the audit, governance and standards (conduct) sub-committee. This item will be brought back to the September 2023 meeting.

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: