

<b>Item No.</b> 12.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 6 September 2023	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Formation of audit, governance and standards sub-committees for 2023-24: conduct sub-committee	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee appoint three members to form the audit, governance and standards (conduct) sub-committee.
2. That the committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Southwark Council's constitution sets out as part of the role and responsibilities of the audit, governance and standards committee to establish the following sub-committees:
  - conduct sub-committee; to consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members
  - civic awards sub-committee; to consider civic awards.
4. At its meeting on 6 June 2023, the committee established the membership of the civic awards sub-committee. It reserved the decision for the membership of the conduct sub-committee to its 17 July 2023 meeting. This decision was postponed to 6 September 2023.
5. The responsibilities of the conduct sub-committee is excerpted from the constitution below:

### **PART 3K: AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **Matters reserved for decision by the conduct sub-committee**

40. To consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The membership for this sub-committee is drawn from the main committee.

7. The conduct sub-committee meets when it is required on an ad hoc basis; it has been required once in the past five years.
8. Sub-committees are not 'ordinary' committees and are each considered individually for the purposes of proportionality. So far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, the allocation of seats a sub-committee should bear the same proportion to the number of the seats held by that group on the council. The audit, governance and standards committee can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.
9. The most proportionate allocation will depend on the number of members of the sub-committee. The following sub-committee size would provide the following allocation of places:

<b>Sub-committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Audit, governance and standards (conduct) sub-committee	3	2	1

### **Resource implications**

10. There are none.

### **Community impact statement**

11. Clear arrangements concerning the accountability of members are very important for promoting high standards of conduct. In addition it is important in aiding the decision-making process and helping to boost public confidence in the council. These arrangements ensure that members of the public are aware of the process in place to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained within the council.
12. The council is committed to promoting civic engagement and good relations in our communities. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.

### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
	None

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Council Constitution	Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	16 August 2023	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		16 August 2023