

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Wednesday 6 September 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 Graham Neale
Councillor Andy Simmons

OFFICER SUPPORT: Clive Palfreyman, strategic director of finance
Caroline Bruce, strategic director of environment, neighbourhoods and growth
Vanessa Parry-O'Driscoll, climate change team
Ciaran McLaughlin, Grant Thornton
Richard Hunter, principal advisor, education team
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Aaron Winter, BDO
Nick Baker, BDO
Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Hamish McCallum, Chris Page, director of climate change, and Nina Dohel, director of education.

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.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: ENVIRONMENT, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND GROWTH

Caroline Bruce, strategic director for environment, neighbourhoods and growth, addressed the committee. The committee had questions for the strategic director.

Officers undertook to investigate the status of traffic management consultations in multi-ward forums and circulate the outcome to members.

Members thanked the strategic director for attending the meeting.

7. CLIMATE CHAMPION CIVIC AWARD

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

RESOLVED:

1. The committee noted the recommendations from Council Assembly to establish a Climate Champion Award.
2. The committee agreed the nomination and award criteria set out in the report.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

Grant Thornton, the council's external auditors, introduced the update. Members had questions for the auditors.

Grant Thornton undertook to bring an update report to each committee meeting until the historic accounts are signed off.

The chair thanked Grant Thornton for their work for the council over the years.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

9. RESPONSE TO INTERNAL AUDIT SCHOOLS SUMMARY REPORT 2022-23

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

Officers undertook to bring back a fuller response to the November 2023 meeting of the committee.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF INTERNAL AUDIT: SEPTEMBER 2023

BDO, the council's internal auditors, introduced the report. Members had questions of the internal auditors.

BDO undertook to include a summary of all long outstanding audit responses in future reports.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

11. ANTI-FRAUD UPDATE

BDO, the council's internal auditors, introduced the report. Members had questions of the internal auditors.

BDO undertook to revert to management to confirm officer support for the staffing element of the housing fraud team.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES - CONDUCT SUB-COMMITTEE: VOTING MEMBERSHIP

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

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the audit, governance and standards (conduct) sub-committee be agreed as:

Members:

Councillor John Batteson (Chair)

Councillor Cass Brown

Councillor Graham Neale

Reserves:

Councillor Barrie Hargrove

Councillor Hamish McCallum

Meeting ended at 7.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: