



Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 3 June 2024 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:	Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair) Councillor Nick Johnson Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Michael Situ
OFFICER SUPPORT:	Clive Palfreyman, strategic director of finance Doreen Forrester-Brown, assistant chief executive, governance and assurance Sarah Feasey, deputy head of law (communities) Tim Jones, departmental finance manager Geraldine Chadwick, senior finance manager Aaron Winter, BDO Fleur Nieboer, KPMG Philip Kent, KPMG Virginia Wynn-Jones, constitutional team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Cassandra Brown, Dora Dixon-Fyle and Graham Neale, and from Angela Mason-Bell, BDO.

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 audit, governance and standards committees of 25 April 2024 and 22 May 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

Doreen Forrester-Brown, the assistant chief executive (governance and assurance) and Sarah Feasey, deputy head of law (communities) addressed the committee. The committee had questions for the officers.

Officers undertook to circulate information on the number of people turned away from GLA elections for not having voter ID.

Officers undertook to bring back an update on the member enquiries work to the committee in November.

Members thanked the assistant chief executive and deputy for attending the meeting.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE - INTERIM

BDO introduced the report. Members had questions for BDO.

BDO undertook to update the format of the report to flag any delayed audits or audit responses.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

BDO introduced the report. Members had questions for BDO.

BDO and officers undertook to update the committee by the next meeting with information on the council's cyber security and cyber resilience.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report, as attached at Appendix A of the report.

9. 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD TEAM, FINANCE AND THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM

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

Officers undertook to circulate an update to the committee on how long NFI datamatching will take to complete.

Officers undertook to update future reports to include comparisons with previous years for resources used and outcomes, more information on Blue Badge fraud, and internal compared to external fraud percentages.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the annual report of the Corporate Anti-fraud Team (CAFT) and the Special Investigations Team (SIT) for the year 2023-24.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN & STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL 2023/24

KPMG introduced the report. Members had questions for KPMG.

The chair welcomed KPMG as the council's new external auditors.

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the external audit plan for 2023-24 for Southwark Council.

11. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2023-24

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the draft annual governance statement 2023-24.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

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

RESOLVED:

That the committee noted the report.

13. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE IN 2023-24

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

Officers undertook to circulate training opportunities from external organisations to committee members when relevant.

RESOLVED:

That the committee:

1. Noted the outcome of the CIPFA self-evaluation questionnaire
2. Agreed the approaches for committee development set out in table 1 of the report.

14. MEMBERSHIP OF AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the committee appointed Councillors Michael Situ, and Nick Johnson to form the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee, with the final position to be agreed at the next meeting.
2. That the committee appointed Councillor Michael Situ as chair of the sub-committee.
3. That the committee appointed Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Graham Neale and Margy Newens to form the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee, with the final position to be agreed at the next meeting.
4. That the committee appointed Councillor Barrie Hargrove as chair of the sub-committee.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: