

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Monday 8 February 2021 at 6.30 pm at Online/Virtual: Contact virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk to attend

PRESENT: Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Duncan Whitfield
Claire Johnson
Richard Selley
Nick Baker, BDO
Ciaran McLaughlin, Grant Thornton
Doreen Forrester-Brown
Geraldine Chadwick
Greg Rubins, BDO
Norman Coombe
Rob Woollatt
Stephen Douglass
Virginia Wynn-Jones

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

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 committee of 18 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

6. GOVERNANCE CONVERSATION: MEMBERS' ENQUIRIES

Richard Selley and Claire Johnson introduced the conversation on members' enquiries. Members had questions of the officers.

Officers undertook to circulate the 'how to' flowchart on members' enquiries to the committee.

Officers undertook to circulate a briefing note to members when the new members' enquiries system is in place.

Officers undertook to update the process for members' enquiries to include follow up emails regularly, even if there is no further information available yet.

The committee thanked the officers for attending.

7. CIVIC AWARDS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

Stephen Douglass presented the report. Members had questions of the officer.

Members are encouraged to email Stephen with suggestions for the proposed diversity civic award.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the arrangements for the Mayor of Southwark to present the Southwark civic awards 2019/20.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the arrangements for the Southwark civic awards 2020/21.
3. That the audit, governance and standards committee considered if there are any amendments it would suggest to the arrangements set out for the Southwark civic awards 2020/21.
4. That the audit, governance and standards committee considered the guidelines for a new civic award for diversity.

8. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Grant Thornton presented the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANTI-FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

BDO presented the report. Members had questions for BDO.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22

BDO presented the report. Members had questions for BDO.

BDO undertook to ensure that the internal audit for temporary accommodation covers budget management and processes for managing and supporting tenants' arrears.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11. COVID-19 PANDEMIC: UPDATE FEBRUARY 2021

Geraldine Chadwick presented the report. Members had questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12. LGA MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Norman Coombe presented the report. Members had questions for the officers.

Officers undertook to circulate a document setting out the differences between the LGA model councillor code of conduct and Southwark Council's current code.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13. REPORT ON THE OPERATIONAL USE OF THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

Norman Coombe presented the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14. REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Norman Coombe presented the report. Members had questions for the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE IN 2020-21

Officers presented the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

16. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021-22

Officers presented the report.

Members requested that chief officers be invited to attend for governance conversations for 2021-22.

Members requested that the members enquiries team be invited back when the new system is implemented.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: