

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Andy Simmons

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jo Anson, Head of Finance and Information Governance
Nick Baker
Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy
Emma Marinos, Director of Modernise
Alex Moylan, Senior Finance Manager
Rob Woollatt, Departmental Finance Manager
Virginia Wynn0Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Nick Baker, BDO
Angela Mason-Bell, BDO
Greg Rubins, BDO
Matt Dean, Grant Thornton
Paul Dossett, Grant Thornton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Whitehead, and from Duncan Whitfield, the strategic director of finance and governance.

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 12 September 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. GOVERNANCE TOPIC: IT

Emma Marinos, Director of Modernise, Southwark Council, and Prod Sarigianis, Head of Joint IT Services, Brent Council, presented to the committee. The committee had questions for the officers.

Officers undertook to bring an example service catalogue to members.

Officers undertook to circulate the joint IT committee's agendas to members of the audit, governance and standards committee.

Officers undertook to coordinate communication between the chair of audit, governance and standards committee and chairs of the committees with a responsibility for governance in Brent and Lewisham Councils to discuss cross-council working.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND ANTI-FRAUD UPDATE NOVEMBER 2018

BDO presented the report, and noted that it was the first time they had completed the anti-fraud work for Southwark Council. Members had questions for BDO.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the internal audit annual report, attached as appendix A to the report.

8. GRANT THORNTON PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

Grant Thornton presented the report.

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted Grant Thornton's progress report and update for year ending 31 March 2019, as attached at Appendix A to the report.

9. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019-20

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

RESOLVED:

That the audit, governance and standards committee noted the draft:

- i. Capital Strategy 2019-20 (Appendix A of the report)
- ii. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-20 (Appendix B of the report)
- iii. Investment Management Strategy 2019-20 (Appendix C of the report)
- iv. Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019-20 (Appendix D of the report)
- v. Prudential Indicators for 2019-2021 (Appendix E of the report).

10. WHISTLEBLOWING COMPLAINTS AND OUTCOMES

Officers presented the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11. MEMBER INDUCTION LEARNING PROGRAMME 2018

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

RESOLVED:

That audit, governance and standards committee noted:

- a. the outcome and feedback from the Member Induction Learning Programme following the Local Elections in May 2018.
- b. the successful implementation of the livestreaming of council meetings.
- c. the progress made in the reduction of printing costs following the implementation of electronic summonses.

12. IN YEAR REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19: NOVEMBER 2018

Members discussed the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee considered the proposed revised work programme for 2018-19, including scheduling of governance topics for the year, and also whether they would wish to make any other amendments.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee invited representatives of the ICT shared services contract back to the meeting of February 2019.

3. That the audit, governance and standards committee, subject to any requested changes, agreed the work programme set out in Appendix 1 of the report for 2018-19.

13. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Norman Coombe updated members on the recruitment of further independent members. Members had questions of the officer.

Meeting ended at 9.10 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: