

Audit & Governance Committee Agenda



To: Dr Olu Olasode (Independent Chair)
Councillor Matt Griffiths (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Claire Bonham, Simon Brew, Sherwan Chowdhury,
Patricia Hay-Justice, Endri Llabuti and Nikhil Sherine Thampi

Reserve Members: Sean Fitzsimons, Simon Fox, Mark Johnson,
Enid Mollyneaux and Stella Nabukeera

A meeting of the **Audit & Governance Committee** which you are hereby invited to attend, will be held **Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 6.30 pm. Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katherine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX.**

Katherine Kerswell
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Hannah Cretney, Democratic Services
hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk
www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

If you would like to record the meeting, we ask that you read the guidance on the recording of public meetings [here](#) before attending.

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If you require any assistance, please contact Hannah Cretney, Democratic Services as detailed above

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from any members of the Committee.

2. Disclosure of Interests

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) they may have in relation to any item(s) of business on today's agenda.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19 January 2023 and 2 February 2023 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. Audit and Governance Committee Action Log 2022-23 (Pages 15 - 16)

5. Urgent Business (if any)

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

6. Opening the Books Review (Pages 17 - 110)

The Opening the Books project was launched by the Mayor in July 2022 to improve the Council's understanding of current financial risks and to work towards a sustainable financial future. The project has had a number of facets including the commissioning of a series of reviews by Worth Technical Accounting Solutions. The resulting reports were presented to Cabinet with the recommendation that the Audit and Governance Committee be asked to debate them at a future meeting. The reports are being shared in full under the Mayor's openness and transparency ethos with nothing hidden. The recommendations made by Worth T&A are accepted in their entirety by the Council and are set out in the action plan in Appendix F. It is recommended that progress against these recommendations is monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee through to completion.

7. 2023/24 Budget Assurance (Pages 111 - 268)

The purpose of this report is to inform the Audit and Governance Committee of the improvements that have been made to this year's budget setting process.

8. Update on follow up audits for 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and

2020/21 (Pages 269 - 276)

This report provides the update follow up position based on the updates received up to 20 February 2023 for the outstanding 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 action plans only.

9. Internal Audit Charter Strategy and Plan (Pages 277 - 294)

This report is for the Audit and Governance Committee to review and approve the Internal Audit Charter and the plan of audit work.

10. Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan 2023 (Pages 295 - 308)

This report provides updates regarding the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit management plan put in place around 2019/20 to address the in-year overspend of £6.7m reported that year and the trend.

The report highlights the overall performance of the plan, governance requirements, risks, and recent Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) regulation regarding extending the Statutory Override for the Dedicated Schools Grant for another three (3) years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.