SECTION H - THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT SELECT COMMITTEE

1. Purpose

1.1 The Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee (PAASC) is a scrutiny select committee which incorporates the Council’s Audit Committee function.

1.2 The purpose of PAASC is to provide independent assurance, and to oversee and improve the Council’s:

- governance and regulation;
- assurance and risk management;
- fraud and corruption prevention;
- performance and compliance;
- sound financial management which achieves value for money; and,
- transparency and open government.

1.3 In addition to its Council-wide work, PAASC also specifically oversees the Chief Executive’s Unit and Finance and Resources divisions of the Council (excluding Regeneration).

1.4 To achieve the aims set out in paragraph 1.2, PAASC will monitor, review, and evaluate the Council, and (where appropriate) make recommendations which will be considered by the Assembly. PAASC will undertake this work in conjunction with the other four select committees (See Part C, Sections E, F, G and I of the Council Constitution).

2. Internal Audit

2.1 Considering regular update reports concerning the work of Internal Audit, including progress on delivering the annual programme of work, emerging themes, risks and issues, and officer responsiveness in implementing recommendations and responding to Internal Audit (in addition to 2.2 below).

2.2 Considering and agreeing an Annual Audit Report from the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) and a summary of Internal Audit activity (actual and proposed), and the level of assurance it can give over the Council’s corporate governance, internal control, and risk management arrangements.

2.3 Considering summaries of specific Internal Audit reports as requested.

2.4 Considering reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of Internal Audit services.

2.5 Commissioning work from Internal Audit.

3. External Audit

3.1 Considering the Annual Governance Report (both main and pension) and the Council’s response to Annual Governance Report (both main and pension), and other relevant reports.
3.2 Considering the Annual Audit Letter, and other relevant reports.

3.3 Considering the Summary of Grant Certifications

3.4 Considering other specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.

3.5 Commissioning work from External Audit.

4. **Performance**

4.1 Considering the Council’s performance monitoring reports and to closely monitor and evaluate the performance of the services and functions which fall within its remit.

4.2 Periodically reviewing the Council’s capital spending.

4.3 Reviewing the performance of any contracts entered into by the Council, including Elevate East London.

4.4 Considering the findings of any reports from any inspection agencies concerning the Council.

5. **Governance**

5.1 Considering regular update reports concerning governance, decision-making, and information governance.

5.2 Considering regular updates concerning risk management and corporate governance, and ensuring compliance with best practice.

5.3 Considering regular updates concerning Council policies relating to governance (including whistle-blowing, bribery, and anti-fraud) and to ensure the implementation of relevant legislation relating to governance, fraud, and corruption.

5.4 Maintaining an overview of the Council’s Constitution in respect of the financial regulatory framework.

5.5 Approving the Council’s Annual Governance Statement which will accompany the Annual Statement of Accounts (see section 6.2).

5.6 Keeping under review the Code of Corporate Governance and regularly monitoring compliance. Agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice and arrange suitable publicity.

5.7 Considering the Council’s compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

6. **Finance**

6.1 Considering regular update reports concerning sound financial management which achieves value for money.
6.2 Considering and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts and all related documents.

6.3 Undertaking annual consideration of the robustness of the Council’s budget setting process.

7. Scrutiny

7.1 Exercising the right to scrutinise any matter related to the remit of the Select Committee or any other matter which cuts across two or more of the themed select committees.

7.2 Presenting recommendations arising from scrutiny investigations in accordance with the Council’s agreed processes, and submitting them to the relevant decision-maker as determined by Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

7.3 Monitoring progress of implementation of recommendations in accordance with the Council’s agreed processes, ensuring that decision-makers have due regard to findings and recommendations arising from scrutiny investigations.

7.4 Undertaking pre and post decision scrutiny reviews and making appropriate recommendations to Cabinet and/or Assembly.

7.5 Reviewing any issue referred to it by the Cabinet, Chief Executive, the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer), a Corporate Director, the Monitoring Officer, Designated Scrutiny Officer, the Partnership, or any Council body.

7.6 Addressing any Call-Ins or Councillor Calls for Action as allocated by the Authority’s Designated Scrutiny Officer, in accordance with Articles 6A and 6B.

7.7 Considering petitions in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme which can be found on the Council’s website at:

http://www.lbdd.gov.uk/CouncilandDemocracy/Information/Pages/Petitions.aspx

7.8 Undertaking annual consideration (for comment) of the Cabinet’s budget proposals which fall within the remit of PAASC before they are formally agreed by Assembly.

7.9 Preparing an Annual Report for submission to Assembly. The Annual Report will contain information on work done by the Committee over the past year and any recommendations the Committee wishes to make.

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