

COMMITTEE	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>6 JUNE 2017</b>
TITLE	<b>FUNCTIONS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
PURPOSE OF REPORT	<b>TO PRESENT THE NEW DRAFT OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION</b>
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ACTION	<b>TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS</b>

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## **1. GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 Gwynedd Council's Audit Committee was established in 1999, which means that Gwynedd was one of the first local authorities in Wales to do so.
- 1.2 Since then, the core role and purpose of the Audit Committee has remained constant, but over time its role has evolved as it has developed new functions. At its annual meeting on 18 May 2017, the Council resolved to change to the name of the Committee to the Audit and Governance Committee, to better reflect this expanded role.
- 1.3 Although the establishment of an Audit Committee has been considered as good practice by bodies such as CIPFA for several years, it is with the implementation of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 they have become mandatory in Wales.
- 1.4 Although the Measure allows the Council to confer any suitable functions to the Committee (and the Committee itself is to decide how to exercise its functions), the Measure also sets out the functions that the Committee must undertake.

## **2 SCRUTINY ROLE**

- 2.1 The Council resolved in its meeting on 2 March 2017 that this Committee will continue to undertake all Audit Committee functions, but will also scrutinise matters relating to the internal operation of the Council such as Corporate Strategies, Partnerships, Engagement, Business Transformation, Efficiency and the Workforce.
- 2.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18 May 2017, the Council's Constitution was amended to reflect the changes in the name of the Committee to the **Audit and Governance Committee**, and the new scrutiny function that it will fulfil as a result of the decision in March.

## **3. THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE'S OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 New draft Operational Arrangements are included as an Appendix. These Operational Arrangements are based on the requirements of the Local Government Measure, Statutory Guidance that have been prepared to support it, and the Council's Constitution. The relevant parts of the Measure and Guidance are also included.
- 3.2 A training session for all members of the Audit Committee will be held on 14 June, where the practical implications of these functions will be covered in more detail.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is requested to consider the contents of the appendix, comment on its contents, suggest amendments and adopt the Operational Arrangements.