

COMMITTEE	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE	25 MAY 2023
TITLE	IMPELEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE
PURPOSE OF REPORT	TO PRESENT AN UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS DECISIONS
AUTHOR	DEWI MORGAN, HEAD OF FINANCE
ACTION	FOR INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline how Council departments have responded to the decisions of the Government and Audit Committee, so that members can receive assurance that their decisions are being addressed.
- 1.2 This contributes to reassuring members that the Council's governance is operating effectively.
- 1.3 This item is an opportunity for all members of the Governance and Audit Committee to consider the decisions made. Where the action has been completed, or where further action was not necessary, the line is removed from the table after the Committee has considered the matter.

2. DECISIONS SINCE ESTABLISHING THE NEW COUNCIL (MAY 2022)

Meeting of 30 June 2022

Item	Decision	Update
INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23	To accept the report To approve the Strategy and the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 Note: Psychological Safety Audit - the Committee recommends, as part of the discussions with the Corporate Support Department, the need to adopt a procedure of holding exit interviews.	The audit has not yet started, but exit interviews are also receiving attention from the Workforce Planning Project Board. The Intern Audit Service is in discussions with Human Resources regarding the exit interviews.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	That the Committee is satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that improvement proposals which arise from external audit reports are implemented Note: Request to review the key to the conclusions and set a timetable for the reports that are 'in progress'	Presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 09/02/23. No further action.

Meeting of 13 October 2022

Item	Decision	Update
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (Wales) ACT 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To accept the report 2. To accept the progress on the Work Programme 3. Request for a further update to Committee in February 2023 	Item presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 09/02/23 and the report was accepted.

Meeting of 17 November 2022

Item	Decision	Update
COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept that the Council's arrangements and performance in relation to dealing with complaints and service improvements are extremely effective. • That the report, in future, will be submitted to the Governance and Audit Committee prior to the Cabinet. <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include an observation on the positive impact that complaints can have on the Council's performance. • To include a summary of the main fields / developmental fields that receive complaints • Categorise or set out a wider context for the departments that receive the majority of the complaints, in order to understand the circumstances • The Chair to revisit the Committee's responsibilities - should there be an overview of 'all Council departments' (including Care Services and Education that have their own statutory arrangements)? 	We will seek action when the next report is submitted to the Committee later in the year.

Meeting of 9 February 2023

Item	Decision	Update
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE	<p>To accept the report</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to discuss the Committee's statutory role in respect of the Council's complaints procedure 	No further action.
UPDATE ON THE REPORTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY AUDIT WALES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Arrangements for Responding to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021' • To present a report in six months' time to update the Committee with regard to transferring the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to an empowered sub-committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to streamline governance and avoid duplication between both bodies • To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Update on Decarbonisation Progress' 	In respect of transferring the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to an empowered sub-committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, there is an intention to hold a joint workshop with Partners before the summer holidays.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and note the information that there are appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that improvement proposals arising from external audit reports are implemented <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That 'completed' means one of two things in the 'key to the conclusions' – there is a need to highlight which one applies to the conclusions of those proposals / recommendations that are 'completed'. 	No further action.

Item	Decision	Update
2023/24 SAVINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the process of identifying the savings had been challenging • That reasonable steps, under challenging circumstances, have been taken to draw up the Savings Plan • That the savings proposed are reasonable and achievable • That the risks and implications of the decision are clear • That the report is adequate to enable the Cabinet to make a decision on the entire Savings Plan • To present observations from the discussion on the report to the Cabinet for their consideration when discussing the 2023/24 Savings in its meeting on 14/2/23 <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of not achieving schemes needs to be better highlighted • We need to highlight that the impact of the savings will not have a disproportionate effect across the County 	<p>The comments were presented to the Cabinet on 14/02/23 and the savings were approved.</p>
2023/2024 BUDGET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and note the content • To accept the financial propriety of the proposals and the relevant risks • To present observations from the discussion on the options to the Cabinet for their consideration when discussing the 2023/24 Budget in its meeting on 14/2/23 	<p>The comments were presented to the Cabinet on 14/02/23 and the budget was approved.</p>
CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 (INCLUDES INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGIES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and to note the information and relevant risks • To support the Cabinet Member for Finance's intention to submit the strategy to the Full Council for approval on 2 March 2023 	<p>Presented to the Full Council on 02/03/23 and was approved.</p>
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report, noting the progress made against the Audit Plan 2022/23 	<p>No further action.</p>

Item	Decision	Update
OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report • To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services • To request an update from the Audit on Taxi Safety (limited assurance level) • That the matter of not implementing regulatory procedures in Care Homes should be referred to the Care Scrutiny Committee. 	<p>Taxi Safety is the subject of a subsequent audit this year, this item is being presented to the Committee today.</p> <p>Care Homes item was considered at the Care Scrutiny Committee's Annual Workshop on 09/05/23. The item was made a priority by programming it for the 23/11/23 meeting on the 2023/24 draft work programme. The Scrutiny Committee's draft work program will be presented to the Committee on 22/06/23.</p>

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the contents of the tables above and to offer comments.