

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 2023</b>
TITLE	<b>IMPELEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</b>
PURPOSE OF REPORT	<b>TO PRESENT AN UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS DECISIONS</b>
AUTHOR	<b>DEWI MORGAN, HEAD OF FINANCE</b>
ACTION	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

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## **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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
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.	<b>The introduction of an exit interview procedure is in the work programme of the Human Resources Service. It is therefore suggested that this issue can be removed from the Decision Implementation report.</b>

**Meeting of 17 November 2022**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept that the Council's arrangements and performance in relation to dealing with complaints and service improvements are extremely effective.</li> <li>• That the report, in future, will be submitted to the Governance and Audit Committee prior to the Cabinet.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include an observation on the positive impact that complaints can have on the Council's performance.</li> <li>• To include a summary of the main fields / developmental fields that receive complaints</li> <li>• Categorise or set out a wider context for the departments that receive the majority of the complaints, in order to understand the circumstances</li> <li>• 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)?</li> </ul>	<p><b>The 2022/23 Annual Report is an item on today's agenda.</b></p> <p><b>The report will be presented to the Cabinet on 19 September.</b></p>

**Meeting of 9 February 2023**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>UPDATE ON THE REPORTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY AUDIT WALES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Arrangements for Responding to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021'</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Update on Decarbonisation Progress'</li> </ul>	<p><b>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, it is planned to discuss with the Chief Executive during September 2023. The target date of transfer is 1 April 2024.</b></p>
<p>OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report</li> <li>• To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services</li> <li>• To request an update from the Audit on Taxi Safety (limited assurance level)</li>   <li>• That the matter of not implementing regulatory procedures in Care Homes should be referred to the Care Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Taxi Safety is the subject of a subsequent audit this year. Follow up work is expected to be completed by end of September 2023.</b></p> <p><b>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. Follow up work continues as 3 other Homes are to be fully audited.</b></p>

## Meeting of 25 May 2023

Item	Decision	Update
ELECTION OF CHAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To re-elect Councillor Sharon Warnes as a Chair of the Committee for 2023/24.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To re-elect Councillor Eifion Jones as Deputy Chair of the Committee for 2023/24.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the following reports; Audit Wales' Quarter 4 Work Programme. Annual Audit Summary 2022. Audit Plan.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION (Wales) ACT 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report and approve the Internal Audit Charter.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> <li>To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services.</li> <li>To refer the 3 limited fields to the Improvement Working Group. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning – Communication Arrangements</li> <li>Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Measures</li> <li>Smallholdings</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<b>Due to long-term sickness absence in the Internal Audit Service, the Controls Improvement Working Group has not yet met.</b>
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the 2022/23 financial year.</li> <li>To re-establish the Controls Improvement Working Group.</li> </ul>	<b>See above regarding the Controls Improvement Working Group</b>
INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report and approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Audit Plan.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>

Item	Decision	Update
FINAL ACCOUNTS 2022/2023 – REVENUE OUT-TURN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report.</li> <li>• To note the relevant risks.</li> <li>• To support the recommendation for the Cabinet (13 June 2023) to approve the amounts to be carried forward; to approve all recommendations and financial virements.</li> </ul>	<b>No further actions.</b>
2022-23 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – END OF YEAR REVIEW (31 MARCH 2023 POSITION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report.</li> <li>• To note the relevant risks.</li> <li>• To support the recommendation to the Cabinet (13 June 2023) to approve the expenditure of £37,131,000 on the capital programme during the 2022/23 financial year and to approve the revised funding.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
THE JOINT PLANNING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE’S FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report.</li> <li>• To approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account 2022/23.</li> <li>2. Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023, subject to audit by Audit Wales.</li> <li>3. The Chair to sign the form electronically.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
FINAL ACCOUNTS OF GWYNEDD HARBOURS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report.</li> <li>• To approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account 2022/23.</li> <li>2. The Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023, subject to audit by Audit Wales.</li> <li>3. The Chair to sign the form electronically.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

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