

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>16 JANUARY 2025</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>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline how Council departments have responded to the decisions of the Governance 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 9 February 2023

Item	Decision	Update
UPDATE ON THE REPORTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY AUDIT WALES	<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, the project is progressing at a regional level. The target date of transfer is now 1 April 2025.</b></p>

## Meeting of 5 September 2024

Item	Decision	Update
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL	<p>To accept the contents of the report.</p> <p>Note: Add to the decision notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That an information session on the field of homelessness needs to be held for Committee members to better understand the field and to understand the reasons why costs in the field are so high.</li> <li>• The Committee's desire to receive Ffordd Gwynedd training.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Work is currently ongoing to identify and devise information sessions. The initial intention was to hold these during autumn 2024 but it is now likely to be early 2025.</b></p>
CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2023/24	<p>To accept the report.</p> <p>To approve the Annual Governance Statement and recommend that it is signed by the Council Leader and Chief Executive.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to re-consider the Lawfulness likelihood score.</li> <li>• Need to consider reviewing the questions and adapting the document to be clear to Gwynedd residents - although compliant with CIPFA guidelines, a suggestion to consider combining with the assessment of governance arrangements which is included in Gwynedd Council's Self-Assessment to avoid duplication of work</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Lawfulness score has been considered by the Governance Group (including the Monitoring Officer) and has concluded that the current score is appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>The format of the document will be considered when preparing the 2025 Statement.</b></p>
AUDIT WALES – QUARTER 1 UPDATE	<p>To accept the report.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Audit Work of 'Local Project – Waste and Recycling' – need to press on confirming timetable.</li> </ul>	<p><b>This work will no longer be undertaken – the risk level has been reduced following an external review by WRAP (The Waste and Resources Action Programme).</b></p>
CYNGOR GWYNEDD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT (draft) 2023/24	<p>To accept the Annual Performance Report and Self-assessment (draft) 2023/24.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to consider appropriate consultation arrangements for the future to ensure Gwynedd residents' input in the process.</li> <li>• Need to involve the Committee earlier in the process – a suggestion to hold a workshop with Members so that the Committee has input and a better opportunity to offer recommendations.</li> <li>• When presenting data – need to ensure a full explanation e.g., avoiding linguistic categories in secondary schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. There is an intention to take part in the National Resident Survey co-ordinated by Data Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association early in 2025. Any feedback will be presented in future self-assessments.</b></p> <p><b>2. Work is ongoing to identify the best way to obtain input from</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing Housing Supply for Local People - need to highlight the impact and not numbers only.</li> </ul> <p>Gwynedd Yfory Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernisation of Buildings and Learning Environment – to add that a RAC inspection had been undertaken.</li> <li>Promoting the Well-being of Children and Young People – to add that schemes / campaigns are in place by the Education Department to improve pupil attendance.</li> <li>Extending Opportunities for Play and Socialising – to add that additional financial support has been provided by the Council to Byw'n Iach Centres – this has been a positive decision.</li> </ul>	<p><b>the Committee earlier in the process.</b></p> <p><b>3. No further action</b></p> <p><b>4. No further action</b></p>
THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME	<p>To accept the Work Programme for September 2024 - September 2025.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider when it would be suitable to review the Committee's Self-Assessment Work Programme</li> </ul>	<p><b>To be discussed at the meeting of 15 January 2025.</b></p>

### Meeting of 10 October 2024

Item	Decision	Update
<p>URGENT ITEMS –</p> <p>1. Concern about the risks associated with legal challenges against the Council.</p> <p>2. Highlighted that two vacant seats remain on the Committee.</p>	<p>Request to the Chair to discuss the concerns with the Head of Finance so that Committee Members can gain a better understanding of the Council's arrangements.</p>	<p><b>The Committee Chair has contacted with the Chief Executive to communicate concerns about risk matters, and ways of sharing risks with lay members. Unfortunately, the meeting originally planned had to be postponed and we are seeking to establish a date so that the lay members can meet the Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance.</b></p>
<p>AUDIT WALES: URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE: 'FLOW OUT OF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the contents of the report.</li> <li>Submit an update on the recommendations in 12 months' time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Update expected in 12 months' time</b></p>

HOSPITAL - NORTH WALES REGION'		
INTERNAL AUDIT OUTPUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report</li> <li>• Findings of the Residential Homes (Plas Pengwaith, Llys Cadfan and Plas Hafan) Services Audits to be referred to the Management Improvement Group.</li> </ul> <p>Carys Edwards, Rhys Parry, Cllr Angela Russell, Cllr Meryl Roberts, and Cllr Ioan Thomas were nominated as members for the Management Improvement Group with an invitation to Cllr Beth Lawton (Chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee) and Cllr Dewi Jones (Vice Chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee) to observe. Should issues arise from the Management Improvement Group that required further attention, they would be referred to the Care Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Note: Freedom of Information Requests Audit – a request to consider that the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are addressed by the Committee – the Committee to receive an annual report setting out the Council's Arrangements to deal with Freedom of Information matters.</p>	<b>No further action</b>
REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF AUGUST 2024 REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and note the situation and relevant risks in the context of the Council's budgets and its departments.</li> <li>• To agree with the recommendation to the Cabinet:</li> <li>• Transfer £1,868k of underspend on corporate budgets to the Council's Financial Strategy Reserve.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Work that has been commissioned by the Chief Executive to gain a better understanding of exceptional overspending by the Adults Health and Well-being Department: a request for the Cabinet to challenge the timescale of this work - assurance needed that this work is in place to set a budget.</p>	<p><b>The intention was for the Statutory Director of Social Services to provide an update during the 28/11/24 Committee on the work involved with the overspend in the Department for Adults, Health and Wellbeing. Due to IT issues during the meeting, the Director was unable to report. The intent is for him to present/report in the next committee. An update on the current situation - the outcome of the end of November 2024 review will be reported in a separate item on the Committee's programme.</b></p>

## Meeting 28 November 2024

Item	Decision	Update
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the contents of the report</li> </ul>	No further action
REPORT OF THE CONTROLS IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the contents of the report Note:</li> <li>To refer the report's recommendations for the attention of the Care Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>To share the 'Llechen Lân' report with Committee Members</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair of the Scrutinee Committee was present in the meeting and the recommendations were discussed in a 'Informal Care Scrutiny' meeting. The 'Llechen Lân' report was shared during the committee.</b></p>
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS AUDIT - DOMICILIARY CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the contents of the report and note the information</li> <li>A further update was required to provide assurance that the situation was improving, with input from the Chief Executive</li> </ul>	<p><b>Audit Wales will present their report in February 2025's committee which will provide further opportunities for discussion and to provide an update.</b></p>
AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the Quarter 2 update on the Audit Wales work programme</li> </ul>	No further action
FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 AND THE RELEVANT AUDIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept and approve the 'ISA260' Report by Audit Wales in respect of Cyngor Gwynedd</li> <li>To accept and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (post-audit)</li> <li>The Vice-chair of the Committee and the Head of Finance Department to certify the Letter of Representation electronically</li> <li>To congratulate the officers for their work of securing an unqualified statement</li> <li>To thank Audit Wales for good collaboration</li> </ul>	No further action
TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2024-25 MID-YEAR REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report for information</li> </ul>	No further action
COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report</li> <li>To accept the proposal of the Head of Corporate Services to submit a further report which would set a context for service improvement policies and arrangements</li> </ul>	<p><b>Head of Corporate Services to present a report to the committee on February 2025 in order to share further details.</b></p>

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report</li> <li>• To approve the results of the review to be submitted to the Full Council 05-12-24</li> </ul>	<b>No further action</b>
THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UP TO 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the Work Programme for January 2025 – November 2025</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.