

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>22 MAY 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>	<b>The transfer of the Economic Ambition Board's functions is operational since the 1 April 2025.</b>

## Meeting of 5 September 2024

Item	Decision	Update
<p>IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL</p>	<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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>No sessions have been arranged yet – Session content to be confirmed for the Housing and Property Department's officers to prepare accordingly.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Ffordd Gwynedd training has been reviewed and adapted recently with a session held for members of the Cabinet on May 13 and a session earmarked for the members of the Governance and Audit Committee on June 4 2025.</b></li> </ol>
<p>CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2023/24</p>	<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 is being considered in the preparation of the 2024/25 Statement.</b></p>
<p>CYNGOR GWYNEDD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT (draft) 2023/24</p>	<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> </ul>	<p><b>1. The Council has been involved in the National Resident Survey during the Spring and over 3,000 County residents have responded. Analysis has been carried out to identify the key messages that will feed into a 24/25 self-assessment with more</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When presenting data – need to ensure a full explanation e.g., avoiding linguistic categories in secondary schools.</li> <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>detailed analysis continuing by the Research and Information Team. The experiences of being part of the National Survey will be reviewed over the coming weeks to decide on future consultation arrangements.</b></p> <p><b>2. Key issues have been identified for inclusion in a self-assessment document to be presented to the May 2025 Governance and Audit Committee in order to provide input earlier in the process of drawing up the self-assessment. As per normal procedure, a draft of the document is due to be submitted to the September 2025 Committee to make recommendations and receive feedback/comments.</b></p>
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**Meeting of 10 October 2024**

Item	Decision	Update
AUDIT WALES: URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE: 'FLOW OUT OF HOSPITAL - NORTH WALES REGION'	<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>

## Meeting 28 November 2024

Item	Decision	Update
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>	<b>Audit Wales have submitted their report. The report along with the Department's response was discussed at the Care Scrutiny Committee on 20 February 2025. The Head of the Adults Department will update the Governance and Audit Committee in May 2025 providing an opportunity to discuss and receive further input from Audit Wales if relevant.</b>
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>	<b>The service is currently finalising a report which will address the requirements of the Committee with an aim of presenting in the September 2025 committee.</b>

**Meeting 16 January 2025**

<p>REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 – END OF NOVEMBER 2024 REVIEW</p>	<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>• Agree with the recommendations to Cabinet:</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Work commissioned by the Chief Executive to gain a better understanding of overspend in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department - a request for the Cabinet to challenge the timetable for this work – assurance needed that this work is in place in order to set the budget</li> <li>2- Work commissioned by the Chief Executive to clarify the detailed situation in Children's care, to gain a better understanding of the issues and a clear programme of response. – need to submit a more detailed analysis of the work to the Committee</li> <li>3- Request for information on how Gwynedd's financial projections compare with other Councils</li> <li>4- Information on higher income from the death bereavement service, lack of parking income and per capita funding details to be shared directly with Councillor Angela Russell</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>The Statutory Director of Social Services will update the committee on this item.</b></li> <li>3. <b>A verbal report was provided to the Committee on February 6 on how Gwynedd compares with other councils.</b></li> </ol>
<p>AUDIT WALES REPORTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the National and Local report</li> <li>• To accept the Council's response to the recommendations</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the receipt of CIPFA support and guidance, the response Work Programme to be submitted to the Committee by March 2026</li> <li>• Performance Reports to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees to demonstrate that the statutory requirements are being addressed</li> <li>• To correct the translations of place names in the reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>These action points are expected to be completed as planned.</b></p> <p><b>Regarding the CIPFA report – A draft version of the report from CIPFA is due soon, therefore the schedule will be adjusted to reflect the timescale/action points.</b></p>

<p>THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the Work Programme for February 2025 – January 2026</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Development Programme</li> <li>• Internal Audit Forward Programme</li> <li>• Audit Priorities – follow-up to recommendations</li> <li>• Further information about Ffordd Gwynedd</li> <li>• Follow-up information on the financial position of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Children and Supporting Families Department</li> <li>• The need for a conversation between the relevant departments to discuss the future impact of rejecting affordable housing schemes on Gwynedd schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ffordd Gwynedd training has been earmarked for the committee members on 4 June 2025.</b></li> <li>• <b>The programme includes items in order to provide an update on the financial situation of the Adults Department and the Childrens Department.</b></li> <li>• <b>The matter of the 'impact of rejecting affordable housing schemes on Gwynedd's schools' was alluded to during the Communities Scrutiny Committee on January 23 with a suggestion to include on the agenda of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee.</b></li> </ul>
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**Meeting 6 February 2025**

<p>IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the contents of the report</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <p>Two vacant seats for Lay Members on the Committee. The Head of Finance, the Democracy Manager and the Propriety and Elections Manager to discuss and try to motivate interest.</p>	<p><b>A recruitment campaign has taken place and interviews will be conducted over the next few weeks.</b></p>
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<p>SAVINGS AND CUTS 2025/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable steps, under challenging circumstances, had been taken to draw up the Savings Plan</li> <li>• That the savings proposed were reasonable and achievable</li> <li>• That the risks and implications of the decision were clear</li> <li>• That the report was adequate to enable the Cabinet to make a decision on the Savings Plan</li> <li>• To submit observations from the discussion on the report to the Cabinet for their consideration when discussing the 2025/26 Savings Plan at its meeting on 11/02/25</li> <li>• Welcomed an invitation for the workshops to share information</li> </ul> <p>Note: To consider reviewing the public consultation in the future to seek the view of residents about the council tax level. To encourage more effort to rationalise services</p>	<p><b>The Savings and Cuts programme was discussed as part of the Cabinet programme on 11 February 2025. The suggestion to review the consultation process has been noted and received in order to include as part of the planning phase for the next consultation.</b></p>
<p>2025/26 BUDGET</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and note the content</li> <li>• To accept the financial propriety of the proposals and the relevant risks</li> <li>• To submit observations from the discussion on the report to the Cabinet for their consideration when discussing and approving the 2025/26 Budget at its meeting on 11/02/25</li> <li>• To thank the Finance Department for their thorough work in preparing the Budget.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The over expenditure situation was concerning - there was a need to ensure less use was made of the reserves.</p>	<p><b>The Budget was discussed by Cabinet on 11 February 2025 - No Further Action</b></p>
<p>CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25 (INCLUDING INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGIES)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and to note the information and relevant risks</li> <li>• To support the Cabinet Member for Finance's intention to submit the Strategy to the Full Council for approval on 6 March 2025</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Report was presented to the Full Council on 6 March 2025.</b></p>

INTERNAL AUDIT OUTPUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services.</li> <li>• A time-schedule needed to be included with the actions.</li> <li>• There was a need for a follow-up report on what had been delivered.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The timetable for the actions is already included as part of the Internal Audit reports. Follow-up audits are planned on all Internal Audits that receive a 'Limited' assurance level from now on with the feedback to be embedded within the 'Internal Audit Output' reports.</b></p>
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept and note the contents of the report</li> </ul>	<p><b>No Further Action</b></p>
SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT - HOME CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept and note the progress on the findings of the Internal Audit review of the Council's Home Care arrangements</li> <li>• The thorough Work Programme that was in place to improve the provision was welcomed.</li> <li>• Further updates would be required in 12 months on the progress and the success of the work programme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The relevant action point is expected to be completed as planned.</b></p>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept and note that the arrangements and processes were in place to ensure that the improvement proposals were being implemented.</li> <li>• To welcome the new arrangements to report on the external audit reports every six months to the Committee.</li> <li>• To welcome the decision that responses to the reports are submitted to the Challenge and Support Performance meetings of the relevant Department.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No Further Action</b></p>

<p>CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the amended Contract Procedure Rules taking place as a result of the Procurement Act 2023.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No Further Action</b></p>
<p>THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME</p>	<p>To accept the Work Programme for May 2025 - February 2026</p>	<p><b>No Further Action</b></p>

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

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