

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>13 NOVEMBER 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 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 5 September 2024**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL	To accept the contents of the report. Note: Add to the decision notice: <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> </ul>	<b>No sessions have been arranged yet –Session content to be confirmed for the Housing and Property Department's officers to prepare accordingly.</b>
CYNGOR GWYNEDD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT (draft) 2023/24	To accept the Annual Performance Report and Self-assessment (draft) 2023/24. Note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need to consider appropriate consultation arrangements for the future to ensure Gwynedd residents' input in the process.</li> <li>2. 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> </ol>	<b>The report was presented in the October 2025 committee. The follow-up actions are shown below in the relevant part of this report.</b>

	<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>	
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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>	<b>A timely update is expected.</b>

### Meeting 16 January 2025

AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<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 – The draft report has been received from CIPFA and is in the process of being finalised which will be reflected in an adjusted action plan/timetable.</b></p>
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## Meeting 6 February 2025

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>	The relevant action point is expected to be completed as planned.
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## Meeting 22 May 2025

CYNGOR GWYNEDD SELF-ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept a draft report of the 2024/25 CYNGOR GWYNEDD SELF-ASSESSMENT</li> </ul> Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penrhos Scheme - emphasis required on the development of care services in Penrhos and not just housing</li> <li>• Flood Strategy - consideration to the A499 highway</li> <li>• Article 4 Impacts</li> <li>• Future of the ARFOR Scheme - ensuring continuation to the Scheme</li> <li>• Safeguarding Arrangements in Schools - further attention required</li> </ul>	The report was presented in the October 2025 committee. The follow-up actions are shown below in the relevant part of this report.
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## Meeting 11 September 2025

CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the (draft) Annual Governance Statement</li> <li>• To accept the (draft) Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.</li> <li>• To approve the Statement, and recommend that the Council Leader and Chief Executive sign it.</li> </ul> Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend the current Finance risk score from 20 to 15 in the Welsh version of the report, point 4.2</li> <li>• The context of the 'culture' risk refers to the fundamental principles of Ffordd Gwynedd</li> <li>• Request for further information to ensure that arrangements are in place to improve services</li> <li>• Request for the Council Tax Collection Rates report to highlight the housing premium</li> </ul>	<p>The governance risk scores will be reviewed regularly and reported to the Committee. This will include information about developments within the departments.</p> <p>The report on Council Tax Collection Rates on the committee's forward programme is due to be presented to the Committee on 13 November.</p>
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REVIEW OF THE DELEGATION SCHEME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report supporting proposed amendments to the Officers' Scheme of Delegation relating to the acquisition and disposal of land and recommends that the Full Council approve the amendments.</li> </ul>	<b>The item is on the Full Council's agenda for 2 October 2025. No Further Action.</b>
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## Meeting 9 October 2025

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the information and note the situation and relevant risks in relation to the Council's financial position.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Paragraph 2.10 of the Plan. Request to share information / county's population reduction figures</p>	<b>The information on the county population figures used to calculate the settlement can be seen in the appendix.</b>
SAVINGS OVERVIEW: PROGRESS REPORT ON REALISING SAVINGS SCHEMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report</li> <li>To note the progress towards realising the savings schemes for 2025/26 and previous years</li> </ul>	<b>No Further Action.</b>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report</li> </ul> <p>Note: To accept the 'Flow Out of Hospital' Investigation progress report, Spring 2026</p>	<b>This action point is expected to be completed as planned.</b>
TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report for information.</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 had already been agreed with the relevant services</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request to reconsider better terms to attract more workers to the Care field</li> <li>Create a communication pathway and consider the method of sharing the findings of internal audit in Care Homes with Care Inspectorate Wales</li> </ul>	<p><b>The employment terms and training requirements of care workers are being considered. This is part of the Council's long-term plans and the Committee's views will be communicated to the Department as part of this project.</b></p> <p><b>Internal discussions are taking place regarding the sharing of Internal Audit findings with the Care Inspectorate.</b></p>
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report and note progress against the 2025/26 Audit Plan</li> </ul>	<b>No Further Action.</b>

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – END OF AUGUST 2025 REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report and agree on the recommendations for the Cabinet to consider</li> </ul>	<b>No Further Action.</b>
CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SELF ASSESSMENT 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the draft report</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the impact of a reduction in the numbers of young people and an increase in the County's older population on the Council's services.</li> <li>To refer to work being done to increase the responses to the staff survey.</li> <li>To include examples and evidence to provide substance to some sentences in the report.</li> </ul>	<b>The comments within the draft version of the Self-Assessment have been considered, with the Self-assessment to be submitted to the Cabinet on 11 November 2025 and to the Full Council for approval on 4 December 2025.</b>
THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the Work Programme for November 2025 - October 2026</li> <li>A request for an update on the work of the Finance Department on drawing up the policy on exceptions to the Council tax premium in relation to self-catering accommodation businesses that fail to reach the 182-day letting threshold</li> </ul> <p>Note: Remove the Recommendations and Proposals for Improvement from External Audit Reports for November as it was discussed in October 2025</p>	<b>The report on Council Tax Reduction Policy will be presented to the Cabinet on 11 November 2025.</b>

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

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

## Appendix: Population of Counties Used for the Settlement

Unitary Authority	Population, all ages 2021-22	Population, all ages 2022-23	Population, all ages 2023-24	Population, all ages 2024-25	Population, all ages 2025-26	Population, all ages 2021-22	Population, all ages 2022-23	Population, all ages 2023-24	Population, all ages 2024-25	Population, all ages 2025-26
Anglesey	69,879	69,864	69,358	69,049	69,291	2.21%	2.20%	2.21%	2.20%	2.19%
<b>Gwynedd</b>	<b>124,936</b>	<b>125,220</b>	<b>121,468</b>	<b>117,591</b>	<b>119,173</b>	<b>3.95%</b>	<b>3.95%</b>	<b>3.86%</b>	<b>3.75%</b>	<b>3.77%</b>
Conwy	118,001	118,320	116,683	114,290	114,410	3.73%	3.73%	3.71%	3.65%	3.62%
Denbighshire	95,836	96,021	96,007	96,558	97,156	3.03%	3.03%	3.05%	3.08%	3.07%
Flintshire	156,862	157,264	156,296	155,319	155,812	4.96%	4.96%	4.97%	4.96%	4.92%
Wrexham	136,642	136,535	135,767	135,394	136,149	4.32%	4.31%	4.32%	4.32%	4.30%
Powys	132,475	132,538	132,885	133,891	134,439	4.19%	4.18%	4.23%	4.28%	4.25%
Ceredigion	71,491	71,151	71,188	71,610	73,050	2.26%	2.24%	2.26%	2.29%	2.31%
Pembrokeshire	125,989	126,301	124,973	124,367	125,006	3.98%	3.98%	3.98%	3.97%	3.95%
Carmarthenshire	189,021	189,525	188,958	189,117	190,083	5.98%	5.98%	6.01%	6.04%	6.01%
Swansea	248,586	249,275	244,252	241,282	246,742	7.86%	7.86%	7.77%	7.70%	7.80%
Neath Port Talbot	144,003	144,447	143,592	142,158	142,898	4.55%	4.56%	4.57%	4.54%	4.52%
Bridgend	147,165	147,892	147,031	146,136	146,743	4.65%	4.66%	4.68%	4.67%	4.64%
Vale of Glamorgan	134,749	135,617	134,192	133,492	134,733	4.26%	4.28%	4.27%	4.26%	4.26%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	242,158	242,784	240,528	239,018	241,178	7.66%	7.66%	7.65%	7.63%	7.62%
Merthyr Tydfil	60,751	60,919	59,963	58,883	58,593	1.92%	1.92%	1.91%	1.88%	1.85%
Caerphilly	181,846	182,060	179,096	176,130	176,437	5.75%	5.74%	5.70%	5.62%	5.58%
Blaenau Gwent	69,583	69,548	68,204	67,014	67,356	2.20%	2.19%	2.17%	2.14%	2.13%
Torfaen	93,856	94,111	93,314	92,860	93,419	2.97%	2.97%	2.97%	2.97%	2.95%
Monmouthshire	95,134	95,489	94,393	93,886	94,572	3.01%	3.01%	3.00%	3.00%	2.99%
Newport	156,972	158,154	159,446	161,506	163,628	4.96%	4.99%	5.07%	5.16%	5.17%
Cardiff	367,190	368,090	365,711	372,089	383,536	11.61%	11.61%	11.63%	11.88%	12.12%
Wales	3,163,125	3,171,125	3,143,305	3,131,640	3,164,404	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%