

COMMITTEE	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE	6 FEBRUARY 2025
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 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"> • 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' 	<p>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.</p>

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"> • 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. • The Committee's desire to receive Ffordd Gwynedd training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No sessions have been arranged yet – Session content to be confirmed for the Housing and Property Department's officers to prepare accordingly. 2. Ffordd Gwynedd training has been reviewed and adapted recently with a session scheduled for the Cabinet members. The Training Unit will arrange a similar session for the members of the Governance and Audit Committee.
<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"> • Need to re-consider the Lawfulness likelihood score. • 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 	<p>The Lawfulness score has been considered by the Governance Group (including the Monitoring Officer) and has concluded that the current score is appropriate.</p> <p>The format of the document will be considered when preparing the 2025 Statement.</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"> • Need to consider appropriate consultation arrangements for the future to ensure Gwynedd residents' input in the process. • 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. 	<p>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.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When presenting data – need to ensure a full explanation e.g., avoiding linguistic categories in secondary schools. Increasing Housing Supply for Local People - need to highlight the impact and not numbers only. <p>Gwynedd Yfory Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation of Buildings and Learning Environment – to add that a RAC inspection had been undertaken. 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. 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. 	<p>2. Work is ongoing to identify the best way to obtain input from the Committee earlier in the process.</p> <p>3. No further action</p> <p>4. No further action</p>
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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>A meeting to discuss the concerns was held between the Chief Executive and the Chair on January 14th.</p>
<p>AUDIT WALES: URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE: 'FLOW OUT OF HOSPITAL - NORTH WALES REGION'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accept the contents of the report. Submit an update on the recommendations in 12 months' time. 	<p>Update expected in 12 months' time</p>
<p>REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF AUGUST 2024 REVIEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accept the report and note the situation and relevant risks in the context of the Council's budgets and its departments. To agree with the recommendation to the Cabinet: Transfer £1,868k of underspend on corporate budgets to the Council's Financial Strategy Reserve. 	<p>The funding has now been transferred to the Council's Financial Strategy Reserve.</p> <p>The Statutory Director of Social Services provided an update in the meeting on January 16. This action point has been incorporated as part of the</p>

	<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>item below on End of November 2024 Review.</p>
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Meeting 28 November 2024

Item	Decision	Update
<p>SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS AUDIT - DOMICILIARY CARE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the contents of the report and note the information • A further update was required to provide assurance that the situation was improving, with input from the Chief Executive 	<p>Audit Wales will present their report in February 2025's committee which will provide further opportunities for discussion and to provide an update.</p>
<p>COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report • 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 	<p>Head of Corporate Services to present a report to the committee on February 2025 in order to share further details.</p>

Meeting 16 January 2025

Item	Decision	Update
<p>IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the contents of the report • Freedom of Information Requests Audit - request for a report setting out Council arrangements to deal with Freedom of Information matters <p>Note: Waste and Recycling – WRAP review to be shared with Members</p>	

<p>REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 – END OF NOVEMBER 2024 REVIEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and note the situation and relevant risks in the context of the Council's budgets and its departments • Agree with the recommendations to Cabinet: <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 3- Request for information on how Gwynedd's financial projections compare with other Councils 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Statutory Director of Social Services reported to the Committee during the meeting on January 16. 2. A report by the Statutory Director of Social Services is planned for the new financial year. 3. The aim is to provide a verbal report to the Committee on February 6 on how the situation in Gwynedd compares with other councils.
<p>CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 – END OF NOVEMBER 2024 REVIEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and note the situation and risks in the context of the Council's capital programme 	<p>No further action</p>
<p>SAVINGS OVERVIEW: PROGRESS REPORT ON REALISING SAVINGS SCHEMES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the information and note the position and the relevant risks arising from slippages in the savings. • Support the Cabinet approval of the deletion of one savings scheme worth £146,910 relevant to 2025/26 in the field of waste in the Environment Department, using the provision set aside in the budget in order to do so. • Thank you to everyone involved with the report - very challenging work presented in an understandable way 	<p>No further action</p>

AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the National and Local report • To accept the Council's response to the recommendations <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the receipt of CIPFA support and guidance, the response Work Programme to be submitted to the Committee by March 2026 • Performance Reports to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees to demonstrate that the statutory requirements are being addressed • To correct the translations of place names in the reports 	These action points are expected to be completed as planned.
THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the Work Programme for February 2025 – January 2026 <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Development Programme • Internal Audit Forward Programme • Audit Priorities – follow-up to recommendations • Further information about Ffordd Gwynedd • Follow-up information on the financial position of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Children and Supporting Families Department • The need for a conversation between the relevant departments to discuss the future impact of rejecting affordable housing schemes on Gwynedd schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be considered as part of the Committee Development Programme • The programme includes items in order to provide an update on the financial situation of the Adults Department and the Childrens Department. • 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.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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