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Our Ref./Ein Cyf.  
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.  
Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

13th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee will be held in Hybrid Meeting to be held virtually via MS Teams or in The Sir Williams Firth Room, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale on Wednesday, 18th October, 2023 at 9.30 am.

Yours faithfully



Damien McCann  
Interim Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation service will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**
- To receive.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
- To receive.
4. **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE** 5 - 10
- To receive the decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.
- (Please note the decisions are submitted for points of accuracy only).
5. **ACTION SHEET** 11 - 14
- To receive the Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.
6. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24** 15 - 22
- To receive.
7. **THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2022/2023** 23 - 34
- To consider the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance.
8. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22** 35 - 226
- To consider the reports of:
- i) the Chief Officer Resources and
  - ii) the Auditor General for Wales.
9. **AUDIT WALES: DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE** 227 - 282
- To consider the report of the Interim Corporate Director Social Services.
10. **BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2022/23** 283 - 390
- To consider the report of the Interim Chief Executive.

**11. PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT - ASSURANCE REVIEW FINDINGS 391 - 400**

To consider the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.

**12. INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT 401 - 412**

To consider the report of the Data Protection and Governance Officer.

To: J. Absalom (Chair)  
Councillor S. Behr (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor D. Bevan  
Councillor K. Chaplin  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor C. Smith  
Councillor J. Wilkins  
M. Veale

All other Members (for information)  
Interim Chief Executive  
Chief Officers