

Committee: **Governance and Audit Committee**  
 Date of meeting: **21<sup>st</sup> September 2022**  
 Report Subject: **Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference**  
 Portfolio Holder: **Leader of the Council / Corporate Services**  
 Report Submitted by: **Steve Berry, Data Protection and Governance Officer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
			21/09/2022					

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to the Governance and Audit Committee the proposed updated Terms of Reference for the committee.
  
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 Following changes implemented as part of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 which came into force in May 2022 there have been amendments to the scope of the Audit Committee. Consequently, the committee is now known as the Governance and Audit Committee and additional responsibilities added to its remit.  
 As a result of this the Terms of Reference for the Governance and Audit Committee need to be updated to better reflect the changes and obligations.
  
3. **Options for Recommendation**
  - 3.1 **Option 1**  
 That the Governance and Audit Committee review the updated Terms of Reference and approve these for use.
  
  - Option 2**  
 That the Governance and Audit Committee review the updated Terms of Reference and recommend any additional changes to be implemented before approving for use.
  
4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
  - 4.1 This relates to statutory regulation and compliance and also links to the Council's objective of an efficient Council within the Corporate Plan.
  
5. **Implications Against Each Option**
  - 5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**  
 There are no budget implications in addition to the existing cost implications of the existing committee.

- 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***  
Failure to be compliant to the relevant legislation would represent a risk to the Council and leave the Council open to criticism and legal action. Ensuring that the committee has Terms of Reference that accurately reflect the legislation and support its work will help to mitigate this risk.
- 5.3 ***Legal***  
The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 place obligations on the Council to ensure the Governance and Audit Committee are in place for the Council and covers the correct scope. The Terms of Reference will assist in ensuring that the Council is compliant with this.
- 5.4 ***Human Resources***  
No direct implications
6. ***Supporting Evidence***  
NA
- 6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***  
NA
- 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***  
To provide assurance that the Committee understand and adhere to its remit and are committed to following this.
- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***  
The scope of the Committee is a statutory obligation and not appropriate for public consultation or similar. These Terms of Reference have been discussed internally and will remain under review.
- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***  
The Terms of Reference are intended to ensure that the Committee continues to fulfil its legal obligations.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***  
See above
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***  
All relevant public bodies must adhere to the same statutory regime.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***  
All service areas are subject to the legislation that mandates the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***  
NA
7. ***Monitoring Arrangements***
- 7.1 The Terms of Reference will be continually reviewed to ensure they accurately reflect any changes to the scope of legislation relating to the Committee.

**Background Documents / Electronic Links**

- *Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference*