

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO:**        **THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:**        **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
                         **- 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

**REPORT OF:**       **DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

---

**PRESENT:**        Ms Joanne Absalom (Chair)

Councillors S. Behr (Vice-Chair)  
                         J. Gardner  
                         W. Hodgins  
                         C. Smith  
                         T. Smith  
Mr M. Veale

**WITH:**            Chief Officer Resources  
                         Audit & Risk Manager  
                         Professional Lead – Internal Audit  
                         Data Protection & Governance Officer  
                         Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships

**AND:**            Mike Jones        ) Audit Wales  
                         Alice Rushby     )

**DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>No. 1</b>	<b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b>  It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<b>No. 2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Wilkins and Mr T. Edwards.</p>	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Tommy Smith declared an interest in Item No. 9 – Annual Report of the Audit &amp; Risk Manager 2021/22.</p>	
<b>No. 4</b>	<p><b><u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2022/23</u></b></p> <p>Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee for 2022/2023.</p> <p>A Member proposed that Ms Joanne Absalom be appointed to the role, and this proposal was seconded.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Ms Joanne Absalom be appointed Chair of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee for 2022/2023.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE &amp; AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 6</b>	<p><b><u>CODE OF GOVERNANCE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approve and adopt the revised Code of Governance (Option 1).</p>	
<b>No. 7</b>	<p><b><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022-2027</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee note the basis for audit selection / prioritisation as described in section 2, and approve the audit plan attached at Appendix A, deeming it to provide sufficient coverage upon which the Audit and Risk Manager can provide an annual Audit opinion, enabling the Governance &amp; Audit Committee to fulfil its assurance role. (Option 1).</p>	
<b>No. 8</b>	<p><b><u>AUDIT PLAN OUTTURN 2021-22</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources and the Audit &amp; Risk Manager.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance &amp; Audit Committee note the levels of audit coverage in each service area, the plan outturn for the financial year and the performance of the Internal Audit Service for the financial year 2021/22.</p>	
<b>No. 9</b>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT &amp; RISK MANAGER 2021/22</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Audit &amp; Risk Manager.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the annual opinion of the Audit &amp; Risk Manager be noted as follows:-</p> <p>‘Based on the findings of the audit work undertaken during 2021/22, in my opinion, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council’s system of internal control during the financial year 2021/22 operates to a level which gives Reasonable Assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation’s framework of governance, risk management and control.’</p>	