

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO:** **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT:** **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**- 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

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

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**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  
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships  
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance  
Professional Lead – Internal Audit  
Senior Auditor  
Data Protection & Governance Officer

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

<p><b>No. 2</b></p>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Wilkins and Mr T. Edwards.</p>	
<p><b>No. 3</b></p>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p>	
<p><b>No. 4</b></p>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE &amp; AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 11th July, 2022 were re-submitted.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee that the minutes had been accepted as a true record of proceedings at the last meeting and had been resubmitted as an Action Sheet from the meeting had now been completed.</p>	
<p><b>No. 5</b></p>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Action Sheet of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 11th July, 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE &amp; AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Action Sheet of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 17th July, 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	

<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Forward Work Programme had been revised and resubmitted to the Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the revised Forward Work Programme for the Governance and Audit Committee be approved.</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Data Protection and Governance Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance and Audit Committee approve the updated Terms of Reference for use. (Option 1)</p>	
<p><b>No. 10</b></p>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT</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 Governance &amp; Audit Committee approve and adopt the Draft AGS having considered and challenged the content, ensuring it was consistent with their knowledge and understanding of the wider issues affecting the Council. (Option 1)</p>	
<p><b>No. 11</b></p>	<p><b><u>QUALITY ASSURANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Senior Auditor.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance &amp; Audit Committee approve the QAIP in line with good practice and the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). (Option 1)</p>	

No. 12	<p><b><u>THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2021/2022</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal &amp; Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance &amp; Audit Committee was assured that the process for the monitoring of complaints was robust and the performance information provided reflects these practices. (Option 1)</p>	
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