

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
16TH NOVEMBER, 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

J. Wilkins

Mr M. Veale

WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Audit & Risk Manager
Senior Finance Business Partner
Professional Lead – Internal Audit
Principal Accountant
Assistant Accounting Technician
Service Manager Policy & Partnerships
Service Manager Registration, Elections and
Corporate Complaints
Team Leader - Housing Solutions
Data Protection & Governance Officer

AND: Mike Jones - Audit Wales

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

	simultaneous translation service.	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Mr T. Edwards Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships Alice Rushby, Audit Wales</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests and dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 21st September, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>On a point of accuracy, the Chair reported a typing error on item 7 Action Sheet – 27th July, 2022. The date of the Governance & Audit Committee should read 27th July, 2022 and not the 17th July, 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 21st September, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Special Governance & Audit Committee held on 20th October, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	

<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for the Governance and Audit Committee be accepted. (Option 1)</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Professional Lead Internal Audit.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee note the findings within the attached Appendices and notes progress on activities for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th September 2022.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED that Exempt Appendix B2 and B4 be deferred until the next meeting and the relevant Officers be invited to attend the meeting.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT – USE OF POWERS UNDER THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA) 2000</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance and Audit Committee considered the information contained in the report and provided specific comment. (Option 2)</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>COMPLAINTS INFORMATION FOR QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2 – 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee sought further clarification on areas within the report and highlighted areas of interest or concern that needed to be considered in future monitoring and reporting of complaints. (Option 2)</p>	
<p>No. 11</p>	<p><u>DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance & Audit Committee received the Draft 2021/2022 Statement of Accounts for information, prior to the consideration for approval on completion of the financial audit, and considered the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2022.</p>	