

Committee: **Governance and Audit Committee**  
Date of meeting: **26<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
Report Subject: **Audit Wales Reviews and Management Responses**  
Portfolio Holder: **All Cabinet Members**  
Report Submitted by: **Gemma Wasley, Service Manager Performance and Democratic**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance and Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	13/04/23		26/04/23					

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee with assurance that proposals for improvement, identified by Audit Wales via various reports, are being responded to in line with Council Governance arrangements.
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Governance and Audit Committee received a number of Audit Wales reports which included how and where the proposals for improvement would be managed and monitored.
  - 2.2 During that meeting the Governance and Audit Committee asked for more detail to be provided on what action would be taken against each Audit Wales report.
  - 2.3 Appendix 1 provides detail on each of the audit reports and the actions to be taken.
  - 2.4 Appendix 1 also includes whether the report is identified as local or national:
    - **Local Report** – a review undertaken on a Blaenau Gwent Council service, with proposals specifically for the Council to complete.
    - **National Report** – a review taken across many or all Local Authorities in Wales. These proposals for improvement are suggestions following the findings across Wales and may not be suitable for all areas to undertake.

2.5 The reports included in Appendix 1 are:

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Local / National</b>	<b>No. Recommendations</b>
Assurance and Risk Assessment Review	Local	2
Corporate Safeguarding Follow-up	Local	2
A missed opportunity' – Social Enterprises	National	3
Springing Forward	Local	6
Time for Change' – Poverty in Wales	National	1
Together we can' Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	National	2

2.6 As reported at the last meeting, all actions identified at appendix 1 to respond to the proposals for improvement will also be included within the relevant business plan for monitoring and reporting.

2.7 To provide further assurance to Committee, there is a governance process in place in order to provide a consistency for the managing and monitoring all proposals for improvement and recommendations from both internal and external auditors including:

- Sign off of all proposals at CLT and or lead officers;
- Lead officers or group identified to manage and monitor implementation;
- The relevant business plan to include the proposals for improvement, where they are then updated and monitored on a quarterly basis;
- The Annual Governance Statement includes detail of all proposals for improvement which are outstanding; and
- CLT to agree when proposals have been completed and can be closed.

#### 4. **Options for Recommendation**

4.1 The report has been considered by CLT at their meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

##### 4.2 **Option 1**

Governance and Audit Committee is assured that the actions outlined in appendix 1 against each proposal for improvement will appropriately respond to the Audit Wales findings.

##### **Option 2**

Governance and Audit Committee provide amendments to the actions outlined in appendix 1 for consideration by the lead officer.

5. **Monitoring Arrangements**

5.1 As outlined in paragraph 2.7.

5.2 The information will be reported within the relevant Directorate report as well as the Joint Finance and Performance Report presented to Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

5.3 Regular meetings are held with Audit Wales to assess progress of reports.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – Audit Wales Reviews and Management Responses