

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
8TH MARCH, 2023**

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: Corporate Director of Education
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Senior Finance Business Partner
Audit & Risk Manager
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Interim Head of Children's Services
Service Manager Performance & Democratic
Service Manager Customer Experience & Transformation
Professional Lead – Internal Audit
Chief Operating Officer (SRS)
Deputy Chief Operating Officer (SRS)
Data Protection & Governance Officer

AND: Mike Jones) Audit Wales
Charlotte Owen)

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
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<p>No. 1</p>	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Wilkins.</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declaration of interest was reported:-</p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins – Item No. 8 Shared Resource Services (SRS).</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 30th January, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 30TH JANUARY, 2023</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 30th January, 2023 was submitted and the following points were raised:-</p> <p><u>Item 8 - Forward Work Programme – mapping exercise</u> Members had received a briefing note and a verbal update from the Audit & Risk Manager on the results of the mapping exercise.</p> <p><u>Item 6 – Forward Work Programme – current position on the Statement of Accounts 2021/22</u> Members had received a briefing note and verbal update from the Senior Finance Business Partner with regard to the Statement of Accounts 2021/22.</p>	

	RESOLVED that the Action sheet be accepted.	
No. 6	<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>	
No. 7	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT ESTYN LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES (LGES) INSPECTION OUTCOME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance & Audit Committee approved Option 2; and that further assurances around the process for measuring success be provided to the Governance & Audit Committee in future monitoring and reporting.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>SHARED RESOURCE SERVICE (SRS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option1, namely</p> <p>(a) To support the position statement confirming Audit and Governance arrangements were in place against the objectives set out in the Business Case; and</p> <p>(b) To receive annual updates as part of the ongoing partnership with SRS.</p>	

<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: ASSURANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW – BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources and the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.5, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING FOLLOW-UP – BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.5, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	
<p>No. 11</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: ‘A MISSED OPPORTUNITY’ – SOCIAL ENTERPRISES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director of</p>	

	<p>Regeneration & Community Services and the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.4, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	
<p>No. 12</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: SPRINGING FORWARD – BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources, the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships, the Head of Organisation Development and the Director of Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.6, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: ‘TIME FOR CHANGE’ – POVERTY IN WALES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee</p>	

	<p>approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.6, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	
<p>No. 14</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: ‘TOGETHER WE CAN’ COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer and the Head of Governance, Partnerships & Democratic Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee approved Option 2, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided comment on the Audit Wales review and Next Steps, identified in paragraph 2.5, to address the recommendation for Officers to implement in order to provide continuous improvement (Option 2); and • a report on the process for implementation of the Audit Wales recommendations be prepared to provide further reassurance to the Governance & Audit Committee. 	