

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

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

**SUBJECT:** **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023**

**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

J. Wilkins

**WITH:** Chief Officer Resources  
Audit & Risk Manager  
Senior Finance Business Partner  
Interim Director of Social Services  
Service Manager Performance & Democratic  
Strategic Education Improvement Manager  
Data Protection & Governance Officer

**AND:** Mike Jones, Audit Wales

**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>	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>	

	<p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Mr Martin Veale Head of Democratic Services, Governance &amp; Partnerships</p>	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests reported.</p>	
<b>No. 4</b>	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE &amp; AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance &amp; Audit Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 was submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action sheet be noted.</p>	
<b>No. 6</b>	<p><b><u>CODE OF GOVERNANCE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to 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>AUDIT PLAN OUTTURN 2022-23</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee noted the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the levels of audit coverage in each service area,</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the plan outturn for the financial year, and</li> <li>• the performance of the Internal Audit Service for the financial year 2022/23.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>BLAENAU GWENT RESPONSE TO ESTYN LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES (LGES) INSPECTION</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee was assured that the action plan in response to Estyn’s recommendations and the structure of the revised Self Evaluation Report would appropriately respond to the Estyn Recommendations (Option 1).</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>AUDIT WALES REVIEWS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSES</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Performance and Democratic.</p> <p>Councillor Jules Gardner joined the meeting at this juncture.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee was assured that the actions outlined in Appendix 1 against each proposal for improvement would appropriately respond to the Audit Wales findings (Option 1).</p>	