

Committee: **Governance and Audit Committee**  
 Date of meeting: **1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**  
 Report Subject: **Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023**  
 Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Steve Thomas, Leader /Cabinet Member Corporate Overview and Performance**  
 Report Submitted by: **Steve Berry – Data Protection and Governance Officer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
		11.11.23	22/11/2023					

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee the Annual Report of the Committee.
  
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 In accordance with CIPFA’s best practice there is a requirement for the Governance and Audit Committee to be held to account by the Council for the work they undertake. To support this the Governance and Audit Committee now prepare a yearly report to the Council on its achievements and demonstrate its accountability.
  - 2.2 The Governance and Audit Committee’s Annual Report for 2022/23 (Appendix 1) provides the Council with the necessary information to demonstrate that it is meeting this requirement.
  
3. **Options for Recommendation**
  - 3.1 **Option 1**  
 That the Governance and Audit Committee considers and accepts the information in the report which is given as assurance that appropriate oversight and monitoring is taking place and any shortfalls have appropriate controls in place to make the necessary improvements.
  
  - Option 2**  
 That the Governance and Audit Committee considers the information contained and provides specific comment.
  
4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**  
 This topic relates to statutory regulation and compliance and also links to the Council’s objective of an efficient Council within the Corporate Plan.

- 5. **Implications Against Each Option**
- 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***  
The budget implications for this area relate to staff and committee member time in order to complete this work.
- 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***  
Failure to ensure that the Council is meeting its obligations under legislation can lead to significant problems.
- 5.3 ***Legal***  
Much of the work undertaken by the Committee is to provide oversight on legal obligations on the Council.
- 5.4 ***Human Resources***  
No direct implications
- 5.5 ***Health and Safety***  
No direct implications
- 6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***  
Appendix 1 provides the relevant performance information.
- 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***  
To provide assurance to the public of the Council's commitment and performance in these areas.
- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***  
This is not an area in which public consultation or engagement is appropriate. Internal engagement on the operation of the Regulations and Policies is an ongoing process.
- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***  
The handling of requests and how the Council handles its obligations under the relevant legislation is under constant review in order to implement improvements when identified.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***  
See above
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***  
All public bodies must adhere to the same legislation and are responsible for their own obligations.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***  
All service areas are subject to this legislation.
- 6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***  
Not relevant to this topic

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

Not applicable

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Performance in this area will continue to be monitored by the relevant team and periodical reports provided to the Committee for oversight.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 – BG GA Annual Report 2023*