

Committee: **Governance and Audit Committee**  
 Date of meeting: **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**  
 Report Subject: **Audit Wales: Well-being Objective Setting Examination – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**  
 Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Steve Thomas, Leader / Cabinet Corporate Overview and Performance**  
 Report Submitted by: **Damien McCann, Interim Chief Executive**

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)
	Oct 2023	11.11.23	22.11.23					

1. **Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee with the Audit Wales Report, ‘*Well-being Objective Setting Examination*’ (Appendix 1).

2. **Scope and Background**

2.1 Audit Wales published their report, ‘*Well-being Objective Setting Examination*’ in September 2023.

2.2 The aim of the Audit Wales examination was to:

- explain how the Council applied the sustainable development principle at key points in the process of setting its well-being objectives;
- provide assurance on the extent that the Council applied the sustainable development principle when setting its well-being objectives; and
- identify opportunities for the Council to further embed the sustainable development principle when setting well-being objectives in future.

2.3 The report identified 3 recommendations:

**R1** The Council should strengthen its application of the sustainable development principle when it next develops its well-being objectives by drawing on the views of the full diversity of the population to inform the objectives.

**R2** The Council should demonstrate more clearly in future corporate plans:

- how it has applied the sustainable development principle in the setting of its well-being objectives; and
- the steps it intends to take to deliver its well-being objectives.

**R3** The Council should ensure there is an effective framework for assessing progress against the well-being objectives over the short, medium and long term and that measures reflect the strategic and cross-cutting nature of the objectives.

- 2.4 Blaenau Gwent's response to the identified recommendations can be found in Appendix 2: Audit Wales Management Response.

### **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

Governance and Audit Committee is assured that the Council's Management Response, identified in Appendix 2, will appropriately respond to the Audit Wales recommendations.

3.2 **Option 2**

Provide comment on the Audit Wales review and Council's Management Response, identified in Appendix 2, to address the recommendations for Officers to implement, to provide continuous improvement.

### **4. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 4.1 The recommendations from Audit Wales will be included within the business plan and updated on a quarterly basis.

The information will be reported within the Joint Finance and Performance Report to Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

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

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

*Appendix 1 – Audit Wales Report – “Well-being Objective Setting Examination”*

*Appendix 2 – Blaenau Gwent Management Response*