

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

Report Subject: **Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas – Leader/Cabinet Member  
Corporate Overview & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Steve Berry – Data Protection and Governance Officer  
on behalf of the Governance & Audit Committee**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	Nov 2023	Oct 2023	01/12/2023				25/01/2024	

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide the Council with the Annual Report for the Governance and Audit Committee for the 2022/2023 period.

**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.

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 Council considers and accepts the information within the report which is given by the Governance & Audit Committee 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 Council 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*