

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE  
21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

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**PRESENT: MS JOANNE ABSALOM (CHAIR)**

Councillors S. Behr (Vice-Chair)

D. Bevan

W. Hodgins

C. Smith

J. Wilkins

Mr M. Veale

**WITH:** Interim Chief Executive  
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services  
Interim Corporate Director of Education  
Chief Officer Resources  
Head of Organisational Development  
Service Manager - Public Protection  
Service Manager Customer Experience & Transformation  
Professional Lead – Internal Audit  
Professional Lead - Risk & Insurance  
Senior Auditor  
Data Protection & Governance Officer

**AND: Audit Wales Representative  
Mike Jones**

**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>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Ms Cheryl Hucker, Lay Member  Corporate Director of Regeneration &amp; Community Services  Chief Officer Commercial &amp; Customer  Head of Democratic Services, Governance &amp; Partnerships  Audit &amp; Risk Manager</p>	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensation 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 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 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 – 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action sheet be noted.</p>	
<b>No. 6</b>	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny &amp; 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>	

<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 3 2023/2024</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance &amp; Audit Committee considered the content of the report and were provided assurance that procedures were in place to monitor the management of significant risks.</p>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2023/24</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Professional Lead Internal Audit.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee noted the findings within the attached Appendices and noted the progress on activities for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE DELIVERY PLANNING PROCESSES AND ARRANGEMENTS</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee was assured that the Council's Management Response, identified in Appendix 4, would appropriately respond to the Food Standards Agency recommendations. (Option 1)</p>	
<p><b>No. 10</b></p>	<p><b><u>RESPONSE TO AUDIT WALES ENQUIRY TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Audit &amp; Risk Manager.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Committee endorsed the attached responses to the Audit Wales queries and confirmed that the response on behalf of those charged with governance accurately reflected their views. (Option 1)</p>	

No. 11

**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL –  
DETAILED AUDIT PLAN 2023**

Consideration was given to the report from Audit Wales.

Martin Veale joined the meeting at this juncture.

RESOLVED that the Audit Wales report be accepted.