

Committee: **Audit Committee**

Date of meeting: **29th September 2020**

Report Subject: **Audit Wales – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's 2020-21 Improvement Plan**

Portfolio Holder: **Leader of the Council / Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Bernadette Elias, Head of Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
			29.09.20					

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to present the Audit Wales – Audit of Blaenau Gwent Council's Improvement Plan 2020/21. The report is dated September 2020 (attached at Appendix 1).

2. Scope and Background

Each year, the Auditor General is required to audit the improvement planning and reporting arrangements of Welsh councils to assess whether each authority will meet statutory continuous improvement duties. This work has been undertaken on behalf of the Auditor General by staff of Audit Wales.

The result of this Audit is that Blaenau Gwent Council has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.

- Under the Measure, the Council is required to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan describing its plans to discharge its duties to:
- make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions;
- make arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- make arrangements to exercise its functions so that any performance standard specified by Welsh Ministers is met.

The Measure requires the Council to publish its Improvement Plan as soon as is reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year to which it relates, or after such other date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee note the content of the report and receive future reports from Audit Wales.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Audit of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's 2020-21 Improvement Plan