

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – 21ST FEBRUARY, 2024

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: J. ABSALOM (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Behr (Vice-Chair)
D. Bevan
W. Hodgins
C. Smith
J. Wilkins

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

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u>	

	<p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Ms Cheryl Hucker, Lay Member Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services Chief Officer Commercial & Customer Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships Audit & Risk Manager</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensation reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 17th January, 2024 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 17th January 2024 was submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny & 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>No. 7</p>	<p><u>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 3 2023 / 2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Governance & 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>No. 8</p>	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS 2023/24</u></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 1st October to 31st December 2023.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE DELIVERY PLANNING PROCESSES AND ARRANGEMENTS</u></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>No. 10</p>	<p><u>RESPONSE TO AUDIT WALES ENQUIRY TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Audit & 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.