

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
17TH JULY, 2024**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: J. ABSOLAM (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Behr
D. Bevan
J. P. Morgan
C. Smith
T. Smioth

M. Veale
C. Hucker

WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Head of Community Services
Audit & Risk Manager
Professional Lead – Internal Audit
Data Protection & Governance Officer
Interim Corporate Director of Education
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Head of Organisational Development
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Service Manager, Performance & Democratic
Service Manager, Revenues & Charging Assessments
Service Manager, Commercial & Business Opportunities
Senior Business Partner, Capital and Corporate Accounting
Senior Auditor x 3
Professional Lead Risk & Insurance
Technical Services Manager Property Maintenance

AND: **Audit Wales Representative**
 Mike Jones
 Charlotte Owen
 Jason Williams

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <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>Councillor J. Wilkins Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 19th June, 2024 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 19TH JUNE, 2024</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 19th June, 2024 was submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action sheet be noted.</p>	

No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme 2024-25 be accepted.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: - USE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: SERVICE USER PERSPECTIVE AND OUTCOMES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships, and the Service Manager Performance & Democratic.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the Governance & Audit Committee be assured that the Management Response responds to the identified recommendations within the report (Option 1).</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>CODE OF GOVERNANCE 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manger Performance & Democratic.</p> <p>RESOLVED that following consideration of the report, the Governance & Audit Committee proposed amendments/alterations to the revised Code of Governance before approval (Option 2).</p>	
No. 9	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGER 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Audit & Risk Manager.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Audit & Risk Manager 2023/24 be accepted.</p>	
No. 10	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25</u></p>	

	<p>Consideration was given to report of the Audit & Risk Manager and the Professional Lead, Internal Audit.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the Committee note the basis on which the Internal Audit Plan is developed and receive the one-year operation plan.</p>	
No. 11	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT – QUARTER 1 2024/25</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Professional Lead, Internal Audit.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the Governance & Audit Committee considered the findings within the attached Appendices, note the progress on activities for the period 1st April to 30th June 2024, providing appropriate challenge where relevant.</p>	
No. 12	<p><u>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 4 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 be assured that procedures are in place to monitor the management of significant risks.</p>	
No. 13	<p><u>ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources (on behalf of Blaenau Gwent Corporate Leadership Team).</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the Committee note the progress against actions included within Appendix 1.</p>	