

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>17 NOVEMBER 2022</b>
TITLE	<b>IMPELEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</b>
PURPOSE OF REPORT	<b>TO PRESENT AN UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS DECISIONS</b>
AUTHOR	<b>DEWI MORGAN, HEAD OF FINANCE</b>
ACTION	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline how Council departments have responded to the decisions of the Government and Audit Committee, so that members can receive assurance that their decisions are being addressed.
- 1.2 This contributes to reassuring members that the Council's governance is operating effectively.
- 1.3 This item is an opportunity for all members of the Governance and Audit Committee to consider the decisions made. Where the action has been completed, or where further action was not necessary, it is suggested that the line be removed from the table after the Committee has considered the matter.

## **2. DECISIONS SINCE ESTABLISHING THE NEW COUNCIL (MAY 2022)**

### **Meeting of 30 June 2022**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2022-23	To elect Mrs Sharon Warnes as Chair of the Committee for 2022-23	<b>Implemented immediately – no further action</b>
ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR 2022-23	To elect Mr Eifion Jones as Vice-chair of the Committee for 2022-23	<b>Implemented immediately – no further action</b>
FINAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22 – REVENUE OUT-TURN	To accept the report To note the relevant risks To support the Cabinet's decision (14 June 2022)  Note: Suggest that issues of overspending and realising savings in the Municipal field are scrutinised. Propose to refer the suggestion to the Language and Scrutiny Unit for Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider as a potential field to scrutinise at their annual workshop.	<b>At the Communities Scrutiny Committee's annual workshop on 6 July 2022 we considered potential items for scrutiny during 2022/23.</b>  <b>This issue has not reached the Committee's programme of work for 2022/23.</b>

Item	Decision	Update
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021 - 22 - END OF YEAR REVIEW (situation as at 31 March 2022)	To accept the report To note the relevant risks To support the Cabinet's decision (14 June 2022)	<b>No further action</b>
FINAL ACCOUNTS OF GWYNEDD HARBOURS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022	To accept the report. To approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue Income and Expenditure Account 2021/22</li> <li>• Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022, subject to audit by Audit Wales</li> </ul>	<b>No further action</b>
GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2021-22	To accept the report To approve the statement To recommend that the Council Leader and the Chief Executive sign the statement  Note: A suggestion to establish a sub-group to review the risks and challenge the headings	<b>The proposal has been discussed by the Governance Group. It was suggested that the Committee Chair would be invited to attend some of the Group's meetings as an alternative solution. The Chair attended a meeting on 10 November.</b>
TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2021/22	Accept the report and note the information	<b>No further action</b>
OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION	To accept the information To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant service	<b>No further action</b>
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2021-22	To accept the annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the 2021/22 financial year	<b>No further action</b>
INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTE	To accept the report and approve Internal Audit Charter	<b>No further action</b>
INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23	To accept the report To approve the Strategy and the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23  Note: Psychological Safety Audit - the Committee recommends, as part of the discussions with the Corporate Support Department, the need to adopt a procedure of holding exit interviews.	<b>The audit has not yet started, but exit interviews are also receiving attention from the Workforce Planning Project Board</b>
WALES AUDIT REPORT - QUARTER 4 UPDATES	To accept the report and note the information	<b>No further action</b>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
2022 AUDIT PLAN - GWYNEDD COUNCIL AND VARIOUS JOINT COMMITTEES	To accept the report and note the information	<b>No further action</b>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	That the Committee is satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that improvement proposals which arise from external audit reports are implemented  Note: Request to review the key to the conclusions and set a timetable for the reports that are 'in progress'	<b>This will be addressed by the next time the report is submitted</b>

### Meeting of 8 September 2022

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22	To accept and note the 2021/22 Statement of the Council's Accounts (subject to audit).	<b>No further action</b>
AUDIT WALES REPORT	To accept the report	<b>No further action</b>
THE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PROGRAMME	To accept the report, noting the observations made during the meeting	<b>No further action</b>

### Meeting of 13 October 2022

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Update</b>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (Wales) ACT 2021	1. To accept the report 2. To accept the progress on the Work Programme 3. Request for a further update to Committee in February 2023	<b>The item will be programmed to meet February</b>
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 – END OF AUGUST 2022 REVIEW	To accept the report and note the situation and relevant risks in the context of the Council's capital programme	<b>No further action</b>

Item	Decision	Update
REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 – END OF AUGUST 2022 REVIEW	<p>1. To accept the report and note the situation and relevant risks in the context of the budgets of the Council and its departments.</p> <p>2. Agree with the recommendation for the Cabinet to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Balances to fund the increase in electricity prices in schools</li> <li>• £4.5 million from the post-Covid recovery arrangements fund established to fund the associated financial challenges that face the Council</li> <li>• The rest to be financed from the Financial Strategy Reserve.</li> </ul> <p>3. That a progress report of the actions is submitted to the Committee following discussions with the Chief Executive and the Highways and Municipal Department regarding the Department's overspend (the report to include a response to the recommendations submitted to the Department by WRAP Cymru).</p>	<p><b>Cabinet approved the decision sought.</b></p> <p><b>The meeting between the Chief Executive and the Department of Highways and Municipal has not yet happened, but will be scheduled soon.</b></p>

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the contents of the tables above and to offer comments.