

COMMITTEE	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE	9 FEBRUARY 2023
TITLE	IMPELEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE
PURPOSE OF REPORT	TO PRESENT AN UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS DECISIONS
AUTHOR	DEWI MORGAN, HEAD OF FINANCE
ACTION	FOR INFORMATION

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, the line is 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

Item	Decision	Update
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.	The Communities Scrutiny Committee has scrutinised “An Outline of the Waste and Recycling Service review work programme” at its meeting on 19 January 2023. The report included the reasons for the overspending and what steps will be taken to tackle it. It was noted during the discussion that it was intended for the Committee to scrutinise certain elements of the waste services programme of work when timely. Link

Item	Decision	Update
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.	The audit has not yet started, but exit interviews are also receiving attention from the Workforce Planning Project Board
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'	This will be addressed by the next time the report is submitted

Meeting of 13 October 2022

Item	Decision	Update
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	Item on today's agenda
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	No further action
REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 – END OF AUGUST 2022 REVIEW	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).	The meeting between the Chief Executive and the heads of department has taken place during autumn 2022. Report to the Cabinet in the near future.

Meeting of 17 November 2022

Item	Decision	Update
IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To accept the report 2. To accept the suggestion to remove the item when the action has been completed. 	No further action
PREMIUM ON THE COUNCIL TAX OF SECOND HOMES AND LONG-TERM EMPTY DWELLINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept that the information in the report and appendices conform to the statutory guidance and legislative requirements • Propose the following observations for the Cabinet's consideration when deciding upon a recommendation to submit to the Full Council to make a final decision on the premium levels: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a need to complete a comprehensive linguistic assessment in accordance with the Council's Language Policy 2. There is a need to consider the impact of the premium on the ability of 'native people' to make a living 3. There is a need to see statistics that demonstrate the impact of premium on restoring empty homes 4. There is a need for evidence about the success of the premium. What has been achieved to date? 5. There is a need for further consultation on the use of the premium. What is the justification for using the second homes premium to fund homelessness? While accepting that the principle is acceptable, what is the evidence behind the decision? 6. The considerations surrounding the premium must be made in conjunction with the Welsh Government's legislation and measures to control second homes 	Comments presented to the Cabinet on 22 November and the full Council on 1 December.
TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2022-2023 MID YEAR REVIEW	To accept the report, for information	No further action

Item	Decision	Update
COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept that the Council's arrangements and performance in relation to dealing with complaints and service improvements are extremely effective. • That the report, in future, will be submitted to the Governance and Audit Committee prior to the Cabinet. <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include an observation on the positive impact that complaints can have on the Council's performance. • To include a summary of the main fields / developmental fields that receive complaints • Categorise or set out a wider context for the departments that receive the majority of the complaints, in order to understand the circumstances • The Chair to revisit the Committee's responsibilities - should there be an overview of 'all Council departments' (including Care Services and Education that have their own statutory arrangements)? 	<p>We will seek action when the next report is submitted to the Committee</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2021 - SELF-ASSESSMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the draft self-assessment • To welcome the intention of including the self-assessment in the Council's Annual Performance Report in future • To ensure that the report is submitted earlier in the year <p>Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider including a reference to the support and training provided to Elected Members 	<p>The Council's Business Support Service is considering a possible timetable for submitting the annual performance report for 2022/23(to include the self-assessment) and ensuring timely input from various cohorts. We can confirm when the next report is submitted to the Committee.</p> <p>The suggestion has been addressed within the final self-assessment report adopted by the Council at its meeting on the 1/12/22.</p>

Item	Decision	Update
AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the Quarter 2 update on the Audit Wales work programme – Cyngor Gwynedd • To receive Cyngor Gwynedd's response to the Audit Wales report 'Springing Forward' that focuses on the Council's response to future working arrangements 	No further action

3. RECOMMENDATION

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