

CHAPTER 7

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEES

148 Renaming of audit committees

- 5 (1) In section 81 of the 2011 Measure (local authorities to appoint audit committees), in subsection (1), for “(an “audit committee”)” substitute “(a “corporate governance and audit committee”)”.
- (2) Schedule 9 makes consequential amendments to the 2011 Measure relating to the renaming of audit committees.

149 Functions of corporate governance and audit committee

- 10 (1) After section 81 of the 2011 Measure insert –

“81A Further provision about functions of committees

- (1) In exercising its functions under section 81(1) the corporate governance and audit committee of a local authority must, in particular, assess –

- 15 (a) the authority’s ability to comply with its duties under section 111 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2017;
- (b) the authority’s ability to make progress in relation to the priorities set out in the statement included in its corporate plan under section 112(2) of that Act;
- 20 (c) the arrangements made by the authority –
- (i) in relation to self assessments under section 116 of that Act;
- (ii) under section 118 of that Act (peer assessments), and
- (d) the local authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively.

- 25 (2) The corporate governance and audit committee must report to the local authority on an assessment under subsection (1).

- (3) A corporate governance and audit committee also has functions under –

- 30 (a) section 117 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2017 (self assessment reports);
- (b) section 121 of that Act (responses to peer assessment reports);
- (c) section 126 of that Act (responses to combined assessment reports);
- 35 (d) section 134 of that Act (responses to governance review reports).”

150 Membership of corporate governance and audit committee

- (1) Section 82 of the 2011 Measure (membership) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2) –

(a) in paragraph (a) omit the words “at least”;

(b) for paragraph (b) substitute –

“(b) one-third of the members of that committee are lay persons;”.

(3) After subsection (5) insert –

“(5A) A corporate governance and audit committee is to appoint –

(a) a member of the committee as its chair (“the committee chair”),
and

(b) a member of the committee as the deputy to the committee
chair (“the deputy chair”).

(5B) The member appointed as the committee chair must be a lay person.

(5C) The member appointed as the deputy chair must not be a member of
the local authority’s executive.”

(4) Omit subsection (6).

151 Meaning of lay person

In section 87 of the 2011 Measure (interpretation), omit the definition of “lay member”
and insert –

““lay person” (*person lleyg*) means a person who –

(a) is not a member or an officer of any local authority,

(b) has not at any time in the period of twelve months ending with
the date of that person’s appointment been a member or an
officer of any local authority, and

(c) is not the spouse or civil partner of a member or an officer of
any local authority;”.

152 Proceedings etc.

(1) Section 83 of the 2011 Measure (proceedings) is amended as follows.

(2) For subsections (1) and (2) substitute –

“(1) A meeting of a corporate governance and audit committee is to be
chaired –

(a) by the committee chair, or

(b) if the committee chair is absent, by the deputy chair.

(2) If both the committee chair and the deputy chair are absent the
committee may appoint another member of the committee (who may
not be a member of the local authority’s executive) to chair the
meeting.”

(3) Omit subsection (8).