

COMMITTEE	<b>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>12 OCTOBER 2023</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>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline how Council departments have responded to the decisions of the Governance 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 17 November 2022

Item	Decision	Update
COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept that the Council's arrangements and performance in relation to dealing with complaints and service improvements are extremely effective.</li> <li>• That the report, in future, will be submitted to the Governance and Audit Committee prior to the Cabinet.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include an observation on the positive impact that complaints can have on the Council's performance.</li> <li>• To include a summary of the main fields / developmental fields that receive complaints</li> <li>• Categorise or set out a wider context for the departments that receive the majority of the complaints, in order to understand the circumstances</li> <li>• 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)?</li> </ul>	<p><b>The latest Annual Report for 2022/23 was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 7 September 2023 and to the Cabinet on 19 September 2023.</b></p>

**Meeting of 9 February 2023**

Item	Decision	Update
<p>UPDATE ON THE REPORTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY AUDIT WALES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Arrangements for Responding to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021'</li> <li>• To present a report in six months' time to update the Committee with regard to transferring the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to an empowered sub-committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to streamline governance and avoid duplication between both bodies</li> <li>• To accept the report and the managers' response to the recommendations in 'Update on Decarbonisation Progress'</li> </ul>	<p><b>In respect of transferring the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to an empowered sub-committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, the project is progressing at a regional level. The target date of transfer is 1 April 2024.</b></p>
<p>OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report</li> <li>• To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services</li> <li>• To request an update from the Audit on Taxi Safety (limited assurance level)</li> <li>• That the matter of not implementing regulatory procedures in Care Homes should be referred to the Care Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Taxi Safety is the subject of a subsequent audit this year. Follow up work was completed during September and the report finalised on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2023.</b></p> <p><b>Care Homes item was considered at the Care Scrutiny Committee's Annual Workshop on 09/05/23. The item was made a priority by programming it for the 23/11/23 meeting on the 2023/24 draft work programme. Follow up work continues as 3 other Homes are to be fully audited</b></p>

## Meeting of 25 May 2023

Item	Decision	Update
OUTPUT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> <li>To support the actions that have already been agreed with the relevant services.</li> <li>To refer the 3 limited fields to the Improvement Working Group.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning – Communication Arrangements</li> <li>Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Measures</li> <li>Smallholdings</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<b>Due to long-term sickness absence in the Internal Audit Service, the Controls Improvement Working Group has not yet met.</b>
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the 2022/23 financial year.</li> <li>To re-establish the Controls Improvement Working Group.</li> </ul>	<b>See above regarding the Controls Improvement Working Group</b>

## Meeting of 7 September 2023

Item	Decision	Update
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept and approve the report.</li> </ul> <p>Note: To include the details of relevant training courses attended by Members.</p>	<b>No further action.</b>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2021 – SELF ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (SUBJECT TO AUDIT) 2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the Council's Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2022-23.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report for information.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
ANNUAL COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accept the report.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>

Item	Decision	Update
AUDIT WALES REPORTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Audit Wales' Quarter 1 Work Programme.</li> <li>2. Update on reports recently published by Audit Wales – Missed Opportunities – Social Enterprises.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the reports.</li> </ul> <p>Report 2: Suggestion to include names / examples of Gwynedd Social Enterprises in the response in order to understand the broader context.</p>	<b>No further action.</b>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accept the report.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>
REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the proposed change to the Constitution and recommend to the Full Council that they are adopted.</li> </ul>	<b>No further action.</b>

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

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