

## GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: G. Chapman (Chair and Lay Member); N. Ireland (Vice-Chair and Lay Member); M. Evans (Lay Member); Councillors P. Drake, E. Goodjohn, M.J. Hooper, J.M. Norman, J. Protheroe and N.J. Wood.

Also present: Councillor I.R. Buckley and S. Wyndham (Audit Wales).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### AGENDA ITEM 4. DRAFT ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2022-23 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments made by Members of the Governance and Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet. The comments being:

- The report was easily accessible given the level and detail of information provided;
- For extra context to be added around the use of agency staff and the percentage of overall Council salaries that agency contracts make. Also to add in some information regarding the Council's policies around the use of staff employed via agencies;
- Who were the targeted audiences as it would be difficult for the ordinary person to engage with the report;
- Consideration be given to the balanced opinions provided in the report, particularly as Council Tax was rising and the level of services were decreasing;
- Brexit was mentioned under the Critical Challenges section but there was very little detail about what that meant;
- Was more balanced commentary needed around Project Zero given that at its previous meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee, the Committee had asked for the risk to be attributed a "catastrophic" status;
- It was important to highlight the risks associated with Project Zero as the Council had committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030;

- The report mentioned that the Council had introduced new technology to facilitate hybrid Council and Committee meetings, but given recent progress was that a true reflection;
- There was reference to staff absence days increasing, so more context behind that was required as well as data to show as a comparison to other Local Authorities;
- With regard to areas that had missed targets for consideration to be given as to how these were presented and to also include further commentary under the Regulatory Improvements section.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. QUARTER 1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT  
MONITORING 2023/24 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Quarter 1 monitoring report for Treasury Management 2023/24 be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6. AUDIT WALES DRAFT DETAILED AUDIT PLAN 2023  
AND QUARTER 1 UPDATE ON AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME (DCR) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T consideration be given to the Governance and Audit Committee seeing the Statement of Accounts for the Cardiff Region City Deal, the Central South Consortium and also the other joint services, namely the Shared Regulatory Services and the Joint Adoption Service.

(2) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to Cabinet for its oversight.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 1 UPDATE  
(DCR) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks (April 2023 – June 2023) as outlined in the Risk Summary Report (Annex A), be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8. PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (PSIAS) – EXTERNAL PEER ASSESSMENT OF THE REGIONAL INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards External Peer Assessment of the Regional Internal Audit Service be acknowledged and endorsed.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. DRAFT GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T Members of the Governance and Audit Committee be allowed four weeks in which to submit comments regarding the Annual Report for 2022/23 and for the final report to be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee in December.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10. PROGRESS AGAINST THE INTERNAL AUDIT RISK BASED PLAN 2023-24 (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report and the progress made against the 2023-24 Internal Audit Annual Risk Based Plan be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11. RECOMMENDATION MONITORING (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the status of the High and Medium recommendations contained within the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T the relevant Directors / Heads of Service responsible for corporate safeguarding and cyber security be invited to attend the next meeting of the

Governance and Audit Committee in order to advise of the reasons for the delays in completed actions and to outline what actions were in place in order to complete recommendations.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12.                   UPDATED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24  
(HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the schedule of items for the next meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023, be endorsed with the Directors responsible for corporate safeguarding and cyber security being invited to attend.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting and to confirm attendance and information requirements.