

## GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Decision Notice –Remote Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 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: Councillors H.C. Hamilton, W.A. Hennessy, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### AGENDA ITEM 4. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING UPDATE (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

#### Reason for decision

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

### AGENDA ITEM 5. FINAL DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT 2022/23 (REF) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the views of the Governance and Audit Committee, those being:

- Accessibility – that it be clarified that there was an opposing view that the document was easily accessible as it was felt that the document may be difficult to read for some members of the public as there was some complexities around the way that certain opinions were expressed in the report, particularly in relation to a rise in Council Tax and a decrease in services.
- Brexit – for further detail to be included regarding the impact of Brexit or for Cabinet to consider removing this reference.
- Hybrid meetings – for the self-assessment document to reflect that the Council has not implemented a hybrid meeting solution and that this was now an urgent matter to resolve. The second reference in the assessment was felt to be more accurate than the first.
- Public engagement and communication – for commentary to outline to the public how the Council spends its money and the priority areas that the money was allocated to as part of communicating the Assessment and in particular the Council's budget. To also clearly highlight that the majority of the Council's budget (around 75%) was allocated to education and social services which meant that along with those departments, all other service areas were under extreme budget pressures.
- Agency staff – for a detailed in-depth review to be undertaken to understand the how's and why's of the areas that the Council spends on agency staff. For this to be undertaken as part of the development of the Council's budget proposals for 2024/25.

#### Reasons for decisions

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

#### AGENDA ITEM 6. Q2 UPDATE: AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE 2023/24 - VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DCR) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for their oversight.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To enable Cabinet's oversight of the Audit Work Programme.

AGENDA ITEM 7. PROGRESS AGAINST EXTERNAL REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT (SEPTEMBER 2023) (DCR) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the progress to date in addressing existing recommendations and improvement proposals made by the Council's external regulators be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be asked to consider the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee for the inclusion of a Priority Status Tracker.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) In order to allow Cabinet to consider a recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee for the inclusion of a Priority Status Tracker.

AGENDA ITEM 8. CALL-IN FOLLOWING INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS NOT YET FULLY IMPLEMENTED (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the assurances from the respective Directors regarding the action be taken to address the Internal Audit recommendations made in 2021/22 which had not yet been fully implemented be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Director of Social Services and the Director of Corporate Resources be advised to provide an update position in relation to Corporate Safeguarding and cyber security at the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee scheduled for February 2024.

Reasons for decisions

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

AGENDA ITEM 9. UPDATED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Forward Work Programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T the schedule of items for the meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 be endorsed.

### Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To confirm the schedule of items for the meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.