GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Hybrid meeting, 23rd June, 2025

The Committee agenda is available here.

The recording of the meeting is available <u>here.</u>

<u>Present</u>: Councillors: G. Ball, M.J. Hooper, J. Protheroe and N.J. Wood; and G. Chapman, M. Evans and N. Ireland (Lay Members).

Also present: Councillors I. G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR –

RESOLVED – T H A T G. Chapman (Lay Member) be appointed Chair for the current Municipal year.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

RESOLVED – T H A T N. Ireland (Lay Member) be appointed Vice-Chair for the current Municipal year.

AGENDA ITEM 3. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor E. Goodjohn.

AGENDA ITEM 4. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

AGENDA ITEM 6. CORPORATE CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY REVIEW (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the views of the Governance and Audit Committee in relation to the policy be referred to Cabinet. The comments relating to the following:

- For further clarity to be added in relation to the regularity of complaints being reported to the Strategic Leadership Team which would be on a quarterly basis rather than six monthly.
- That narrative be included to outline within the policy how the Council would learn from complaints received.
- For narrative to be included within the policy to outline what was a complaint and how the Council would address identified areas for improvement.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 7. CORPORATE RISK: QUARTER 4 UPDATE (DCR) –

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the response to Cabinet's resolutions following consideration for referred comments from the Governance and Audit Committee (Annex B), be noted.
- (2) T H A T Quarter 4 position of corporate risks (April 2024-March 2025) outlined in the Risk Summary report (Annex A), be noted.
- (3) T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for its consideration. The comments relating to the following:
 - Concern regarding the risks associated with the delivery of major regeneration projects such as Barry Marina.
 - Issues regarding the Cardiff Region City Deal and the impact of the legal settlement relating to Aberthaw power station.
 - Contract over runs and over spends for some projects where the costs had doubled from initial estimates.

Reason for decision

(1,2 & 3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8. VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL SETTING WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES EXAMINATION (DCR) –

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the findings from Audit Wales' examination of the extent of the Council's application of the sustainable development principle in setting its well-being objectives, be noted.
- (2) T H A T report be referred to Cabinet for its oversight.

Reasons for decisions

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

AGENDA ITEM 9. VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL AUDIT SUMMARY 2024 (DCR) –

RESOLVED -

- (1) THAT the contents of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Annual Audit Summary 2024 report, be noted.
- (2) THAT a comments of the Governance and Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for its consideration. The comments relating to the following:
 - Concern in regard to the delays around the finalisation of the accounts for the Cardiff Region City Deal, which also impacted upon the finalisations of the statement of accounts for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- (3) THAT the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee writes to the Auditor General for Wales to express the Committee's concern of the delays in finalisation the accounts for the Cardiff Region City Deal, which should be produced in more timely manner.

Reasons for decisions

- (1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (3) To express concerns to the Auditor General of the delays in finalising accounts for the Cardiff Region City Deal

AGENDA ITEM 10. Q4 AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE 2024/25 – VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DCR) –

RESOLVED -

- (1) THAT the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) THAT the report 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 11. AUDIT WALES: VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL AUDIT PLAN 2025 (DCR) –

RESOLVED -

- (1) THAT the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) THAT the report 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 12. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2024/25 (HRIAS)

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the Annual Internal Audit Report for the 2024-25 financial year including the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and internal control contents of the report and the progress made against the Internal Audit Risk Based Plan 2024/25 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the staff of the Audit Team be congratulated for their hard work and for congratulations be sent to those staff members that have completed their qualifications.

Reason for decisions

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

AGENDA ITEM 13. REGIONAL INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE CHARTER 2025-26 (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Regional Internal Audit Service Charter for 2025-26 as attached at Appendix A be approved.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 14. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL STRATEGY AND RISK BASED PLAN 2025-26 (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the draft Internal Audit Strategy (Appendix A) and draft Annual Risk Based Audit Plan for 2025-26 (Appendix B) be approved.

Reason for decision

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

AGENDA ITEM 15. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26 (HRIAS) -

RESOLVED – T H A T the schedule of items for the next meeting on 21st July, 2025 be endorsed.

Reason for decision

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