



## **GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date Written	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Report Author	Mark Thomas/Helen Harbord
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee Members with the Forward Work Programme for 2021/22.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that**

2.1 That Members approve the Forward Work Programme for 2021/22.

### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 The core functions of an effective Governance and Audit Committee include the responsibility to:

- consider the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting, governance processes, performance assessment and complaints arrangements.
- seek assurances that action is being taken on risk-related issues identified by auditors and inspectors. Consider the effectiveness of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements.
- be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.

- oversee the work of internal audit (including the annual plan and strategy) and monitor performance.
- review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- receive the annual report of the Head of Audit.
- consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies, where applicable.
- ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- review and approve the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.

3.2 Effective Governance and Audit Committees help to raise the profile of governance, internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within an organisation, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors. They enhance public trust and confidence in the financial governance of an authority.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to assist the Committee in ensuring that due consideration is given to all aspects of their core functions the proposed Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix A. Committee Members are asked to endorse this schedule, confirm the list of people they would like to invite for each item (if appropriate), and indicate whether any additional information or research is required.

4.2 Shown below are the items scheduled to be presented at the Committee's next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

<b>Proposed Agenda Items – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>	
1	Update on Corporate Risks
2	Annual Internal Audit Report
3	Draft Statement of Accounts including Draft Annual Governance Statement
4	Internal Audit Information Reports
5	Updated Forward Work Programme 2021/22

4.3 There may be additional agenda items presented to the Committee as the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 comes into effect, particularly in respect of the Committee's new responsibilities in relation to performance and complaints, and these will be added to the Forward Work Programme as necessary.

## 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**MARK THOMAS**  
**HEAD OF REGIONAL AUDIT SERVICE**

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE**  
**AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>