



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT** **COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Veale (Chair)  
C Prosser (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: B Carter, C Jones, D Roberts, D Sammon,  
J Scriven and C Tovey

**Lay Member:**  
S Eriksen

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**  
A Barry, G Thomas and D Hughes

**Officers:**  
E Cooper (Chief Executive), A Wathan (Head of Regional Internal Audit Service), L Cumpston (Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service), C Davies (Audit), H Harbord (Assistant Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service), L Hull (Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), H Brown (Head of HR and Organisational Improvement) and J Jones (Director of Neighbourhood Services) and J Llewellyn (Head of Childrens Services).

**Outside Bodies:**  
I Phillips and D Woods (Audit Wales)

O Moore (Democratic Services Officer) and E Galeozzie  
(Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
684	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
685	Declarations of Interest	Councillor D Hughes Declared his Interest in Item 14 – Special Guardianship Orders.
686	Minutes of Previous Meeting For Information	The Minutes of the Governance and Audit Committee held 15th of January 2024 were accepted as a correct record.
687	Governance and Audit Committee Action log	The Chief Finance Officer referred to the Action Log and updated the Committee on any outstanding items.
688	Audit Wales – Annual Audit Summary	<p>The Chair welcomed Ian Phillips and Deborah Woods Audit Wales to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ian Phillips provided an update on the report.</p>
689	Audit Wales – Digital Strategy Review – Report – Organisational Response Form	<p>The Chair welcomed Richard Evans to the Meeting.</p> <p>Richard Evans then led the Committee through the report and together with Audit Wales and the Chief Executive responded to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How often does the working group meet?</li> <li>• Who will receive the updates?</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>Governance and Audit Committee note and debate the content of this report.</p>
690	Audit Wales - Work Programme and Timetable	<p>Ian Phillips led the Committee through the Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable report and together with Deborah Woods responded to the following questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit accounts – any information or updates on the timetable?</li> <li>• Assurance and Risk Assessment – will there be a report published?</li> </ul>
691	Revenue Budget 2024/25	<p>The Chief Finance Officer led the Committee through the ‘Revenue Budget 2024/25’ report.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the Budget Setting Workshops, and expressed how they provided useful information and insight into the budget setting process.</p>

		<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of this report be discussed and noted.</p>
692	Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24	<p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24 report.</p> <p>In reference to the Governance and Audit Committee Self-Assessment, the Chair reminded the Committee of the deadline to complete the questionnaire.</p> <p>The Chair requested that future Committee dates be shared with the Committee.</p>
693	Internal Audit Information Reports	<p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Internal Audit Information Reports.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the positive results of the audits.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>Members determine any reports they wish to consider in more detail at a future meeting including receiving updates from appropriate officers on progress made in implementing recommendations.</p>
694	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
695	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chief Finance Officer advised the Committee that the Authority's contract with the Internal Audit Shared Service is due to expire and gave details on this.</p> <p>A Cabinet Report is being drafted and the Committee would be kept updated on the matter.</p>
696	Exempt	<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Part 4 of Schedule 12A of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972</p>
697	Special Guardianship Orders	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Councillor D Hughes, having declared an interest in this item, left the meeting for the consideration of the item.</p> <p>Joanne Llewellyn led the Committee through the Special</p>

		<p>Guardianship Orders report and responded to the questions raised by the Committee.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The recommendation detailed in Paragraph 2.1 be approved.</p>
698	Revenue Budget 2024/25	<p>The Chief Finance Officer led the Committee through the Revenue Budget 2024/25 report and responded to the questions raised by the Committee.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The recommendation detailed in Paragraph 2.1 of the report be approved.</p>