

Minutes of the Meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held remotely on Tuesday, 6 February 2024

Present: Mr Alan Davies (Chair), Councillors Wyn Evans, Keith Henson, Maldwyn Lewis, Gareth Lloyd, Mark Strong together with Mr Andrew Blackmore and Mrs Caroline Whitby.

Also in attendance: Councillors Gareth Davies (Cabinet Member), Rhodri Evans, Hugh Hughes and Matthew Vaux (Cabinet Member).

Audit Wales: Ms Carys Bates, Mr Jason Blewitt, Ms Lucy Herman and Mr Derwyn Owen.

Officers in attendance: Mr Barry Rees, Corporate Director; Mr Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer - Finance and Procurement and Section 151 Officer; Mr Justin Davies, Corporate Manager - Core Finance; Mr Mark Bridges, Service Manager; Ms Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer - Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer; Mrs Alex Jenkins, Corporate Manager - Internal Audit; Mrs Katy Sinnett-Jones, Governance Officer; Mr Arwyn Davies, Corporate Manager - Growth and Enterprise; Miss Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer - Democratic Services; Ms Nia Jones, Corporate Manager - Democratic Services and Miss Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer.

(09.30am-10.33am)

1 Apologies

Councillor Elizabeth Evans apologised for her inability to attend the meeting due to being on other Council duties.

2 Personal Matters

None.

3 Disclosures of Personal / Prejudicial interest

Councillor Keith Henson declared a personal interest in relation to item 5.

4 Annual Governance Statement 2022- 2023 update

Consideration was given to the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 update. Following its consideration at the previous meeting held on 24 January 2024, there had been no amendments to the Statement. It was reported that the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 would be presented to Full Council for approval later that afternoon.

It was **AGREED** to:

- i) note and consider its contents, and
- ii) recommend that Council approves the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23.

5 Report of the Head of Finance upon the Ceredigion County Council and Ceredigion Harbour Authority Statements of Accounts 2022/23

The Corporate Lead Officer- Finance and Procurement presented the Ceredigion County Council and Ceredigion Harbour Authority Statement of Accounts 2022/23 highlighting both procedural and presentational matters.

The Committee commented upon and queried certain matters on the accounts.

Members thanked the Corporate Lead Officer - Finance and Procurement and Corporate Manager - Core Finance and their staff for their hard work in producing the Statement.

It was **AGREED** to recommend to Council that the Statement of Accounts for Ceredigion County Council and Ceredigion Harbour Authority Statements of Accounts for 2022/23 be approved as presented and that the Chairman would report the Committee's recommendation to Council that afternoon.

6 ISA260 Report

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Derwyn Owen from Audit Wales to introduce the report.

Mr Owen highlighted the information contained in the report to Members. Congratulations were extended to the Corporate Lead Officer - Finance and Procurement and his Officers on their work in completing the audit.

The Corporate Lead Officer - Finance and Procurement provided an overview of the plan in place to address the Other Significant issues arising from the audit.

Mr Owen explained that Audit Wales intended to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts for 2021-22, once the Local Authority had provided them with a Letter of Representation following the Full Council meeting later that afternoon.

Committee Members thanked all concerned, the Officers of the Council and Audit Wales, for the co-operation shown in the audit of accounts and welcomed a positive report.

It was **AGREED**:

- i) to note the content of the report;
- ii) to congratulate the service on this excellent report; and
- iii) that a progress report on addressing the Other Significant issues arising from the audit be included on the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held
on 14 March 2024**

Chairman: _____

Date: _____