

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Governance and Audit Committee

DATE: 14th March 2024

LOCATION: Remotely via Video Conference

TITLE: **Statutory and non-statutory guidance on democracy within principal councils**

PURPOSE OF REPORT: For information

Background

This is statutory guidance issued under section 38 of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 45 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021-[Statutory and non-statutory guidance on democracy within principal councils | GOV.WALES](#). **Appendix 1. June 2023**

This was first brought to the committee on **24.1.24** for information.

In August 2023 there was an update to the section highlighted in yellow on **Appendix 1 Part 4 Governance and Scrutiny (pages 143-151)**.

There has been an amendment in that an additional paragraph has been added into the August 2023 version relating to the Annual Governance Statement which now reads as follows:

‘An Annual Governance Statement is a document which sets out a council’s arrangements for decision-making and governance. The AGS is the product of a review of council governance carried out by senior officers. There is no obligation on Welsh councils to prepare an Annual Governance Statement. As there is no legal obligation to produce an Annual Governance Statement, Welsh Government is not providing statutory guidance on this matter. However, councils will note the presence of the local government accounting standards. Councils could consider how the AGS can be used as a tool for broader corporate improvement; it can be used to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the governance framework and, as part of an annual action plan, take forward agreed changes accordingly.’

The additional text has been shared with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Current position

1)It is proposed that the impact/effect of this additional text relating to the Annual Governance Statement will be considered, and reported back to Committee.

2)Officers are planning on reviewing the Annual Governance Statement template for 2024-25

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is requested to:

- i. Note the contents of this report, and the parts of the Guidance relevant to the Governance & Audit Committee, in particular the additional text in relation to the Annual Governance Statement.
- ii.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S): To note the Statutory and non-statutory guidance within principal councils

Appendices: Statutory and non-statutory guidance on democracy within principal councils (**Appendix 1**)

Head of Service: Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer – Legal & Governance Services / Monitoring Officer

Reporting Officer: Katy Sinnett-Jones – Governance Officer

Date: 27.02.2024