

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO:	Governance and Audit Committee
DATE:	16th July 2024
LOCATION:	Remotely via Video Conference
TITLE:	Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023-24
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To present the draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report for consideration, prior to presenting to Council
CABINET PORTFOLIO AND CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Legal and Governance, Housing, People and Organisation and Public Protection

Background

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires each County Council to establish an Audit Committee (now, and hereafter in this Report, referred to as the 'Governance and Audit Committee', per the change of name introduced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021). The Measure prescribes the functions of the Governance and Audit Committee.

The CIPFA Practical Guidance for Local Authorities & police (2018 edition) states that it is important that the Governance and Audit Committee is held to account on the extent to which it has fulfilled its purpose. This will include whether the Governance and Committee has:

- Fulfilled its agreed terms of reference
- Adopted recommended practice
- Assessed its own effectiveness
- Assessed training needs
- Assessed the impact of the Governance and Committee on governance, risk and control within the Authority

The Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report is used to:

- a) Highlight the work carried out by the Governance and Audit Committee during the year;
- b) Show how the Governance and Audit Committee has made a difference;
- c) Set out the forward work programme for the year ahead; and
- d) Provide Self-assessment and assurance.

Current Position

The Committee's Annual Report 2023/24 has been drafted and is attached (at **Appendix 1**).

The Committee's Annual Report attached (at **Appendix 1**) will be presented to Council by the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee and will be subsequently published on the Council's website.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? No

If, not, please state why

Summary: *This report does not represent a change in policy or strategy.*

**WELLBEING
OF
FUTURE
GENERATIONS:**

OF

Long term: N/A

Integration: N/A

Collaboration: N/A

Involvement: N/A

Prevention: N/A

Recommendation(s): That the Governance and Audit Committee:-

- 1) Provides its views on the draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24 (at **Appendix 1**); and
- 2) Approves the draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24 (**Appendix 1**), prior to presentation to Council.

Reasons for decision: To gain assurances that effective arrangements are in place to manage the authorities' financial affairs, risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and that the authorities internal and external audit arrangements are adequate. In line with the CIPFA - Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities 2018.

Overview and Scrutiny: n/a

Policy Framework: Democratic Arrangements

Corporate Priorities: Ensure that the governance arrangements are fit for purpose in line with managing performance within the Corporate Strategy 2022-2027

Finance and Procurement implications: None

Legal Implications: None

Staffing implications: None

Property / asset implications: None

Risk(s): None

Statutory Powers: Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

Background Papers: None

Appendices: **Appendix 1:** Draft Governance and Audit Committee Chair's Annual Report 2023/2024

Corporate Lead Officer: Elin Prysor-Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance Services (& Monitoring Officer)

Reporting Officer: Katy Sinnett-Jones: Governance Officer

Date: 17.05.2024