



## AUDIT COMMITTEE – 6TH NOVEMBER 2013

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON THE IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Audit Committee of the progress to date on the Improving Governance Programme (IGP).

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an update to Members of progress in respect of this key area requiring improvement.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Good governance arrangements should be embedded in the Authority.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Members are reminded that reports in respect of the progress in the Improving Governance Programme has been driven operationally by the Improving Governance Group. This Group comprises:

Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S 151 Officer  
Gill Lewis – Secondee from Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board  
Cllr C Forehead – Cabinet Member for HR & Governance / Business Manager  
Gareth Hardacre – Head of HR and OD  
Colin Jones – Head of Performance and Property  
Alessandra Veronese – Programme Manager  
Gail Williams – Interim Monitoring Officer  
Dan Perkins – Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Lisa Lane – Solicitor

- 4.2 The Action Plan that is regularly updated by this Group is reviewed and endorsed by Corporate Management Team. This review occurs fortnightly.

- 4.3 Reports are produced for Cabinet monthly and Council following on from these meetings.

- 4.4 Reports have been presented to Cabinet on 18th September 2013, 16th October 2013 and Full Council on 8th October 2013. Further reports for Cabinet and Audit Committee are included in the Forward Work Programmes. It is envisaged that a further report will be presented to Council by the end of the year.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities process does not need to be applied.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Where applicable, these have been included in reports to Cabinet.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Where applicable, these have been included in reports to Cabinet.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 All consultation responses have been included in the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Audit Committee Members note progress made to date in respect of the Improving Governance Programme.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To improve Corporate Governance and respond to the WAO Public Interest Report March 2013 and the Annual Improvement Report as presented to Council on 8th October 2013.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2009.

Author: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S 151 Officer  
Consultees: Corporate Management Tea,  
Cllr C Forehead, Cabinet Member for HR & Governance / Business Manager

Background Papers: Working Papers IGP

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Cabinet Report 16th October 2013 "Improving Governance Programme Update"