



AUDIT COMMITTEE – 11TH DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON THE IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & S 151 OFFICER

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 18 September 2013, 16 October 2013, 11 December 2013 and Full Council on 8 October 2013. Further reports for Cabinet and Audit Committee are included in the Forward Work Programmes.

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 8 October 2013.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2009.

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

Background Papers:
Working Papers IGP

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Cabinet Report 11 December 2013 "Improving Governance Programme Update"