



SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19TH MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT BY: ACTING INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT TO INFORM MEMBERS OF THE UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1.1 To inform the members of the newly named Governance and Audit Committee of the revised Terms of Reference of the Governance and Audit Committee that come into effect from April 2021.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 prescribes reforms to the Council's current Audit Committee some of which will take effect from April 2021, while others come into effect later .
- 2.2 The reforms arising from Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires changes to be made to the Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference and the revised document is attached at **APPENDIX 1**

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Audit Committee notes the report and the revised Terms of Reference.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Terms of Reference are compliant with the new legislation, and that the members Governance and Audit Committee are aware of the updated document. A report will be presented to the annual meeting of Council for the terms of reference and re-naming of the committee to be approved.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 prescribes reforms to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee which will take effect from April 2021.
- 5.2 These changes were reported to the Audit Committee in January; however the Committee Terms and Reference is now required to be updated.
- 5.3 As members will be aware the changes relate to the requirement to change the name of the Committee and to add new functions to the remit of the Committee in relation to the Council's performance assessment, panel review and how the Council makes reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively.
- 5.4 The updated Terms of Reference is set out in the attached **APPENDIX 1** and for ease of reference the new functions introduced arising from the legislation are highlighted in bold text.
- 5.5 A number of other changes relating to the Committee will come into force at future dates. Officers and members are working with bodies such as WLGA and these issues are still under development so a further update to the Terms of Reference will be required when these are fully developed. Further reports will be presented to this committee and council when further changes become necessary.

Conclusion

- 5.6 There are a number of changes arising from the new legislation which require the Committee's Terms of Reference to be updated.

6. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 6.1 The council's Performance Framework and Constitution

7. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 7.1 Strong corporate governance arrangements are a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No equalities implications have been identified.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No financial implications have been identified.

10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No personnel implications have been identified

11. CONSULTATIONS

11.1 Any comments received from consultees have been included within the report

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government and Elections Act 2021

Author: D Gronow Acting Internal Audit manager (Email: gronode@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: R Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
S Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
R Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
R Roberts, Business Improvement Manager

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference