



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 8TH JUNE 2021

SUBJECT: DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Members of the Governance and Audit Committee with the Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the 2020/21 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21.
- 2.2 Good corporate governance requires the active participation of members and officers across the council drawing on their skills and knowledge and the document reflects this input. The AGS also includes updates on the areas for improvement noted in the AGS for 2019/20 and identifies any new issues arising in 2020/21.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 and approve the content subject to any changes agreed.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Annual Governance Statement is endorsed by the Governance and Audit Committee prior to its inclusion in the 2020/21 Draft Financial Statements.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Draft AGS 2020/21 is attached as Appendix 1 to allow the members of the Audit and Governance Committee to consider its contents.
- 5.2 The document has been prepared by the Corporate Governance Review Panel and

the panel has considered responses from Heads of Service, Directors and key officers in this process, and has included these as appropriate.

- 5.3 As part of this process, the previous year's AGS (2019/20) has been reviewed by the panel to assess progress on addressing issues raised and these have been updated within the document.
- 5.4 The panel has also identified any issues for improvement that need to be reported in the 2020/21 AGS.
- 5.5 Following approval of the 2020/21 AGS by the Governance & Audit Committee, the document will be incorporated into the 2020/21 Draft Financial Statements which will be handed over to Audit Wales on the 9th July 2021 for the external audit to be completed.
- 5.6 The audited 2020/21 Financial Statements and External Auditor's report will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on the 30th September 2021, followed by Council on the 14th October 2021.

Conclusion

- 5.7 The Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21 has been prepared by the Corporate Governance Review Panel. Work undertaken to address issues raised in the previous AGS has been assessed by the Panel and it has been determined that sufficient progress has been made to address those issues.
- 5.8 Three new areas for improvement have been identified moving forward in the 2020/21 Statement

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that during the annual governance review only those issues of corporate significance will be highlighted for consideration within the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Council will be unable to deliver its Well-being Objectives in the absence of effective corporate governance arrangements.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 There are no other implications arising from this report in relation to other equalities issues.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The Draft AGS has been considered by the Corporate Governance Review Panel and all Directors and Heads of Service have been consulted. All comments have been reflected in the draft AGS attached as Appendix 1.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government and Elections Act 2021

Author: S. Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tel: 01443 863022 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: R. Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education & Corporate Services
(Email: edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk)
D Gronow, Acting Internal Audit Manager
(Email: gronode@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/21