



## COUNCIL – 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021

**SUBJECT:                   AUDIT WALES ENQUIRIES RETURN 2020/21**

**REPORT BY:               CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1.       PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1     To present Council with responses to Audit Wales in relation to enquiries around our management processes relating to the prevention and detection of fraud, and compliance with laws and regulations in respect of disclosures in the 2020/21 Financial Statements.

### **2.       SUMMARY**

- 2.1     As part of their audit planning and to comply with International Auditing Standards, Audit Wales needs to gain an understanding of how the Council gains assurance over management processes and arrangements in relation to the detection and prevention of fraud and compliance with relevant laws and regulations in the preparation of the Financial Statements .
- 2.2     The Council's response to the questions raised by Audit Wales in respect of the 2020/21 financial year is appended to this report.

### **3.       RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1     Council is asked to note the response appended to this report.

### **4.       REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1     To ensure that Council is aware of the responses to Audit Wales.

### **5.       THE REPORT**

- 5.1     As part of the external audit of the Authority's Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, Audit Wales, in compliance with the International Auditing Standards, is required to refresh its understanding of how the Council gains assurance over management processes and arrangements.
- 5.2     The assurances are essentially around an understanding of our management processes to prevent and detect fraud and to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations in the preparation of the Council's Financial Statements.
- 5.3     The questions asked by Audit Wales in the attached document are standard for all Local Authorities and are not specific to Caerphilly CBC. The responses have already been endorsed by the Leader and are now presented to Council for noting prior to the audited

2020/21 Financial Statements being presented to the Governance & Audit Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and then Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## **Conclusion**

5.4 The report provides Members with the responses provided to Audit Wales.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions have been made in respect of this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report is for information only so an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 Any comments received from consultees have been included within the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Audit Wales Enquiries Return 2020/21