



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 4TH JUNE 2024

SUBJECT: DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24

REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND 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 for the 2023/24 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.
- 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 Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 also includes an update on the area for improvement noted in the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 and endorse its content subject to any changes agreed.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Draft Annual Governance Statement is considered by the Governance and Audit Committee prior to its inclusion in the 2023/24 Draft Financial Statements.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix 1 to allow members of the Governance and Audit Committee to consider its content.

- 5.2 The document has been prepared by the Corporate Governance Review Panel. The Panel has considered responses from Directors, Heads of Service, and other key Officers in this process and has included these as appropriate.
- 5.3 As part of this process, the previous year's Annual Governance Statement (2022/23) has been reviewed by the Panel to assess progress on addressing issues raised and these have been updated within the document.
- 5.4 The Draft Annual Governance Statement will be incorporated into the 2023/24 Draft Financial Statements which will be submitted to Audit Wales on 30 June 2024 for the external audit to be completed.
- 5.5 The audited 2023/24 Financial Statements and External Auditor's report will subsequently be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee and Council for approval in November 2024 (dates to be confirmed).

Conclusion

- 5.6 The Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 has been prepared by the Corporate Governance Review Panel.
- 5.7 One specific action is outstanding which will be addressed during the 2024/25 financial year.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

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

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 is a statement of fact which includes one recommended action in respect of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is not required at this time as the annual budget setting process is subject to widespread consultation with IIAs being completed as required on specific proposals.

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 Annual Governance Statement has been prepared by the Corporate Governance Review Panel and Directors and Heads of Service have been consulted.

All comments have been reflected in the Draft Annual Governance Statement attached as Appendix 1.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government and Elections Act 2021

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/24