



## **GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

**SUBJECT: DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22**

**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 (AGS) for the 2021/22 financial year.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report provides details of the Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2021/22.
- 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 2020/21 and identifies any new issues arising in 2021/22.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and endorse the content subject to any changes agreed.

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

- 4.1 To ensure that the Annual Governance Statement is considered by the Governance and Audit Committee prior to its inclusion in the 2021/22 Draft Financial Statements.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Draft AGS 2021/22 is attached as Appendix 1 to allow the members of the Governance and Audit 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 (2020/21) 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 2021/22 AGS.
- 5.5 The Draft AGS will be incorporated into the 2021/22 Draft Financial Statements which will be handed over to Audit Wales on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for the external audit to be completed.
- 5.6 The audited 2021/22 Financial Statements and External Auditor's report will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee and Council in October 2022.

### **Conclusion**

- 5.7 The Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2021/22 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 good progress has been made in addressing those issues.
- 5.8 One specific action has been identified moving forward in the 2021/22 Statement

## **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 (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

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22