



**Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

**Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod**

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## **Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio**

**Lleoliad:** Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Ystafell Gloucester, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Mercher, 17 Ionawr 2024

**Amser:** 2.00 pm

**Cadeirydd:** Paula O'Connor

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: A Davis, P R Hood-Williams, J W Jones, M B Lewis, M W Locke, S Pritchard, L V Walton a/ac T M White

Aelod(au) Lleyg: Gordon Anderson, Julie Davies a/ac David Roberts

**Gwyllo ar-lein:** <https://rb.gy/lirc3f>

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### **Agenda**

**Rhif y Dudalen.**

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.**
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.**  
[www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau)
- 3 Cofnodion.** **1 - 10**  
Cymeradwyo a llofnodi, fel cofnod cywir, gofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol.  
**Rhan A - Adroddiadau i'w trafod.**
- 4 Adroddiad Orlhain Argymhellion Archwiliadau Hanfodol 2022/23.** **11 - 27**  
(Simon Cockings)
- 5 Gweithredu Argymhellion Adolygiad Dilynol Cyfrifon Derbyniadwy y Gwasanaeth Archwilio Mewnol.** (Rachael Davies / Michelle Davies) **28 - 33**  
**Rhan B - Adroddiadau Er Gwybodaeth.**
- 6 Adolygiad o Strategaeth Digidol Archwilio Cymru.** (Sarah Lackenby) **34 - 59**

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|---|--|----------------|
| 7 | <b>Adroddiad Oirhain Camau Gweithredu'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio. (Jeremy Parkhouse)</b> | <b>60 - 65</b> |
| 8 | <b>Cynllun Gwaith y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio. (Jeremy Parkhouse)</b>                     | <b>66 - 85</b> |

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Mercher, 28 Chwefror 2024 am 2.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans**  
**Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**  
**Dydd Mercher, 10 Ionawr 2024**

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**Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd: - 636923**

# Agenda Item 3



**Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

## **Cofnodion Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio**

**Cyfarfod Aml-leoliad - Ystafell Gaerloyw, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams**

**Dydd Mercher, 6 Rhagfyr 2023 am 2.00pm**

**Yn bresennol:** Paula O'Connor (Cadeirydd) fu'n llywyddu

**Y Cynghorwyr**  
P R Hood-Williams  
M W Locke  
T M White

**Y Cynghorwyr**  
J W Jones  
S Pritchard

**Y Cynghorwyr**  
M B Lewis  
L V Walton

**Aelod(au) Lleyg**  
Gordon Anderson

David Roberts

### **Swyddog(ion)**

Ness Young  
Ben Smith  
Stephen Holland  
Simon Cockings  
Richard Rowlands  
Jonathan Rogers  
Jeremy Parkhouse

Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol  
Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid/Swyddog Adran 151  
Prif Gyfreithiwr  
Prif Archwiliwr  
Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol  
Rheolwr y Tîm Twyll Corfforaethol  
Swyddog y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

### **Hefyd yn bresennol**

Bethan Roberts                      Archwilio Cymru

### **Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**

Y Cynghorwyr A Davis, Julie Davies a Gillian Gillet

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## **51 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol**

Yn unol â'r Côd Ymddygiad a fabwysiadwyd gan Ddinas a Sir Abertawe, datganwyd y buddiannau canlynol: -

Datganodd y Cyngorwyr P R Hood-Williams, M B Lewis a T M White gysylltiadau personol â Chofnod Rhif 55 – Adroddiad Monitro Archwilio Mewnol – Chwarter 2 – 2023/24.

## 52 Cofnodion

**Penderfynwyd** cymeradwyo cofnodion cyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio fel cofnod cywir.

## 53 Datganiad o Gyfrifon Drafft 2022/23

Cyflwynodd Ben Smith, y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid, y Datganiad Cyfrifon Drafft ar gyfer 2022/23 'er gwybodaeth' ac i'w adolygu.

Roedd y Cyfrifon Drafft ar gyfer 2022/23 wedi'u paratoi a'u llofnodi gan y Swyddog Adran 151 ar 27 Hydref 2023. Atodwyd copi yn Atodiad A yr adroddiad.

Cadarnhawyd bod y cyfrifon wedi'u cyflwyno'n ffurfiol i archwilwyr y cyngor sef Archwilio Cymru, a oedd wedi dechrau'r archwiliad o'r cyfrifon. Esboniwyd fel rhan o'r broses archwilio, y byddai'r cyfrifon ar gael i'w harchwilio gan y cyhoedd am gyfnod o bedair wythnos o 4 Ionawr i 31 Ionawr 2024.

Diolchwyd i staff yr Adran Gyllid gan y Cyfarwyddwr am eu gwaith ar y cyfrifon, ac ailadroddwyd hyn gan y Cadeirydd a'r Pwyllgor.

Gofynnodd y Pwyllgor nifer o gwestiynau technegol i'r Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid/Dirprwy Swyddog Adran 151, ac fe'u hatebwyd yn briodol. Nodwyd y cynnig i fabwysiadu ymagwedd sy'n seiliedig ar risg at brisiadau. Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd am newidiadau ariannol, yn enwedig y gostyngiad mewn incwm gros.

Byddai ymatebion yn cael eu dosbarthu mewn perthynas â'r gostyngiad mewn incwm gros mewn meysydd penodol a'r cynnydd ym mantolen y dyledwyr tymor hir yn Nodyn 17.

## 54 Cyfarwyddiaeth Cyllid: Amgylchedd Rheoli Mewnol 2023/2024

Rhoddodd Ben Smith, y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid, adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' a oedd yn cyflwyno amgylchedd rheoli'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Cyllid, gan gynnwys rheoli risgiau, sydd ar waith i sicrhau bod swyddogaethau'n cael eu harfer yn effeithiol; bod adnoddau'n cael eu defnyddio'n effeithlon ac effeithiol ac yn economaidd a bod llywodraethu effeithiol i sicrhau'r trefniadau hyn.

Amlinellwyd bod y Gyfarwyddiaeth a rôl y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid cysylltiedig wedi'u creu yn dilyn penderfyniad y cyngor ym mis Tachwedd 2021, ac fe'i penodwyd ar ddiwedd

mis Ionawr 2022. Yn ymarferol, cafodd ei wahanu'n ffurfiol o 1 Ebrill 2022 ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol newydd. Fel y cyfryw, hon oedd y gyfarwyddiaeth fwyaf newydd ac un cymharol fach (yn nhermau cyllideb net), gan y bu'n rhan o'r gyfarwyddiaeth Adnoddau yn flaenorol.

Ychwanegwyd bod ymagwedd gychwynnol y gyfarwyddiaeth at ymdrin â'i gweithrediadau ei hun yn seiliedig ar sut yr oedd yn gweithredu fel rhan fawr o'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Adnoddau gynt. Gan fod gan y gyfarwyddiaeth ddylanwad ar weithgarwch a chyllid y cyngor cyfan, roedd hefyd yn arwain ar lawer o'r prosesau rheoli cyffredin yn ogystal â chymryd rhan ynddynt. Rhestrwyd manylion y meysydd hyn.

Amlinellwyd y fframwaith sicrwydd, gan gynnwys yr elfennau allweddol ac agweddau allweddol ar drefniadau'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Cyllid. Nodwyd bod cyrhaeddiad gweithredol ehangach y Gyfarwyddiaeth yn golygu bod ei gweithgareddau'n llawn risg ac yn aml yn gymhleth.

Nodwyd bod adroddiadau gan y cyfryngau am gynghorau a oedd yn mynd i drafferthion ar hyn o bryd yn gysylltiedig gan amlaf â chael eu difetha gan fethiannau ariannol sy'n digwydd yn gymharol gyflym, a'r ffaith nad yw rhanddeiliaid ac aelodau'n llwyr ddeall y risgiau a goblygiadau'r penderfyniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud. Ar draws y DU roedd cyfrifon cynghorau'n cael eu hoedi mewn cynyrchiadau drafft ac wrth gwblhau archwiliadau fel mater o arfer, ac nid oedd yr awdurdod yn wahanol. Roedd hyn yn digwydd ochr yn ochr â phryder cyffredinol cynyddol ynghylch cyflwr cyffredinol cyllid ar gyfer pob cyngor.

Rhestrwyd maint y gweithrediadau gros a net a reolir yn uniongyrchol gan y Gyfarwyddiaeth ac eitemau'r fantolen dan reolaeth uniongyrchol.

Darparwyd manylion rheoli risgiau, parhad busnes, rheoli perfformiad/DPA, cynllunio, gwneud penderfyniadau, cyllideb, twyll ac amhriodoldeb, cydymffurfiaeth â pholisïau, rheolau a gofynion rheoleiddio a rheoli adnoddau.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y canlynol: -

- Newid y mis y darperir yr adroddiad yn y dyfodol.
- Gallu'r gwasanaethau a'r galw amdanynt a'r risgiau cysylltiedig, yn enwedig pan gaiff gwasanaethau eu rhesymoli yn y dyfodol.
- Diffyg gallu a chadernid o fewn y Gyfarwyddiaeth a'r camau a gymerwyd i fynd i'r afael a'r problemau a wynebwyd.

Diolchwyd i'r Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid am adolygiad manwl a chynhwysfawr.

## **55 Adroddiad Monitro Archwilio Mewnol - 2il Chwarter 2023/24**

Cyflwynodd y Prif Archwilydd, Simon Cockings, adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' manwl a oedd yn dangos yr archwiliadau a gwblhawyd ac unrhyw waith arall a wnaed gan yr Is-adran Archwilio Mewnol yn ystod y cyfnod o 1 Gorffennaf i 30 Medi 2023.

Cwblhawyd cyfanswm o 16 o archwiliadau yn ystod y chwarter. Rhestrwyd yr archwiliadau a gwblhawyd yn Atodiad 1, a oedd hefyd yn dangos lefel y sicrwydd a roddwyd ar ddiwedd yr archwiliad a nifer yr argymhellion a wnaed ac y cytunwyd arnynt. Roedd Atodiad 2 yn darparu crynodeb o gwmpas yr adolygiadau terfynol yn ystod y cyfnod. Roedd Atodiad 3 yn dangos pob archwiliad a oedd yn gynwysedig yn y Cynllun a gymeradwywyd gan y pwyllgor ar 12 Ebrill 2023 ac yn nodi safle pob archwiliad o 30 Medi 2023.

Rhodddwyd dadansoddiad o lefelau sicrwydd yr archwiliadau a gwblhawyd a gwnaed cyfanswm o 95 o argymhellion archwilio a chytunodd y rheolwyr i roi'r holl argymhellion ar waith.

Ychwanegwyd bod salwch staff o fewn y Tîm Archwilio Mewnol wedi parhau i fod yn sylweddol yn ystod yr ail chwarter, gyda chyfanswm o 71 diwrnod o absenoldeb wedi'u cofnodi, a chyfanswm yr absenoldebau salwch cronol hyd at ddiwedd chwarter dau oedd 104 diwrnod. Diweddarwyd y Pwyllgor hefyd ynghylch penodiadau staff.

Nodwyd bod 36 archwiliad (31%) o 116 o weithgareddau wedi'u cwblhau yn y Cynllun Blynyddol Archwilio Mewnol ar 30 Medi 2023. Yn ogystal, roedd 1 gweithgaredd wedi'i gwblhau'n sylweddol, gan olygu bod 37 o weithgareddau archwilio wedi'u cwblhau hyd at o leiaf y cam adroddiad drafft (32%), gyda 30 ar waith erbyn diwedd y chwarter. Roedd hyn yn golygu bod 58% o weithgareddau archwilio o fewn y cynllun wedi'u cwblhau neu ar waith.

Rhodddwyd manylion y gwaith dilynol i'r Pwyllgor hefyd gyda lefelau sicrwydd cymedrol, uchel a sylweddol wedi'u cwblhau yn ystod y cyfnod.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y canlynol: -

- Y broses uwch-gyfeirio ar gyfer diffyg gweithredu, a oedd yn cynnwys uwch-gyfeirio i'r cyfarwyddwr/pennaeth gwasanaeth priodol/Tîm Rheoli Corfforaethol.
- Amserlenni o rhwng 3 a 6 mis ar gyfer amserlenni gwaith dilynol.
- Ystyried archwiliadau fel pethau annibynnol, a'r camau gweithredu canlyniadol.
- Gwaith dilynol ar sicrwydd cymedrol yn ystod y chwarter a gweithdrefnau i'w dilyn, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â Rhyddid Gwybodaeth.
- Adolygu llywodraethiant corfforaethol a'r lefelau risg uchel sydd ynghlwm wrth hyn.
- Adroddiadau archwilio sydd wedi'u dosbarthu.

Holodd y cadeirydd a oedd effeithiolrwydd y mesurau rheoli ar y gofrestr risgiau wedi'u harchwilio fel rhan o'r archwiliad llywodraethiant corfforaethol.

Cadarnhaodd y Prif Archwilydd y byddai'n ymateb ynghylch yr adolygiad o lywodraethiant corfforaethol ac y byddai'n dosbarthu'r holl adroddiadau archwilio nad oeddent wedi'i hanfon ymlaen at y Cadeirydd.

**56 Is-adran Archwilio Mewnol - Adroddiad Diweddarau Canol Blwyddyn y Swyddogaeth Twyll Corfforaethol ar gyfer 2023/2024**

Cyflwynodd Jonathan Rogers, Rheolwr y Tîm Twyll Corfforaethol adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' a oedd yn darparu diweddariad canol blwyddyn ar y gwaith a wnaed gan y Swyddogaeth Twyll Corfforaethol yn 2023/24 ac adolygodd y cynnydd a wnaed yn erbyn y canlyniadau a oedd yn gynwysedig yng Nghynllun Gwrth-dwyll y Swyddogaeth Twyll ar gyfer 2023/2024.

Esboniwyd fod Rheolwr ar gyfer y Tîm Twyll wedi'i benodi ym mis Mai 2023. Roedd y swydd wedi'i chlustnodi i'r tri swyddog ymchwilio presennol, a bellach mae strwythur y tîm yn cynnwys Rheolwr Twyll a dau Ymchwilydd Twyll.

Tynnwyd sylw at y ffaith bod cynnydd da wedi'i wneud yn erbyn pob un o'r wyth gweithgaredd a gynlluniwyd yn y Cynllun Swyddogaeth Twyll Corfforaethol ac roedd y tîm ar y trywydd iawn i gwblhau'r holl weithgareddau erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn. Darparwyd manylion yn atodiad A.

Ychwanegwyd bod y tîm wedi cofnodi cyfanswm o £150,483.94 o arbedion o fewn y chwe mis cyntaf ac wedi cyflwyno cosb sifil o £100. Yn ogystal, roedd y tîm wedi cynorthwyo gyda gwaith i adennill dau eiddo, a'u dychwelyd i'r stoc tai, ac wedi ymgymryd ag ymarfer rhagweithiol mewn perthynas â'r posibilrwydd o ddefnyddio stoc fel llety gwyliau tymor byr wedi'u gwasanaethu.

Darparwyd trosolwg byr o ymchwiliadau brys i weithwyr, cefnogaeth Adnoddau Dynol, twyll honedig, ceisiadau am ddata, gwaith rhyngasiantaethol a chyfnewid data.

Llongyfarchodd y Cadeirydd y tîm am y cynnydd a wnaed hyd yn hyn.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y canlynol: -

- Aelodau tîm ychwanegol er mwyn caniatáu i'r tîm fod yn rhagweithiol.
- Patrymau achosion twyll a sut roedd y tîm yn ymdrin â materion o ddydd i ddydd.
- Gwaith rhyngasiantaethol a gwblhawyd a phwysigrwydd rhannu adnoddau.

**57 Trosolwg o Risgiau Corfforaethol 2023/24 – Chwarter 2**

Rhoddodd Richard Rowlands, Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' a oedd yn rhoi trosolwg o statws risgiau corfforaethol y cyngor i roi sicrwydd i'r Pwyllgor eu bod yn cael eu rheoli'n unol â pholisi a fframwaith rheoli risgiau'r cyngor.

Roedd y canlynol yn crynhoi statws y risgiau a gofnodwyd yn y Gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol ar ddiwedd Chwarter 2 2023/24: -

Roedd 5 risg statws coch yn y Gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol ar ddiwedd Ch2 2023/24: -

- Rhif Adnabod Risg 153: Diogelu.
- Rhif Adnabod Risg 159: Rheolaeth Ariannol: Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig
- Rhif Adnabod Risg 222: Digidol, Data a Seiberddiogelwch.
- Rhif Adnabod Risg 334: Argyfwng costau byw.
- Rhif Adnabod Risg 338. Targed sero net 2030.

Amlinellwyd yn ystod Chwarter 2 y cofnodwyd bod yr holl risgiau corfforaethol wedi'u hadolygu o leiaf unwaith; ni ychwanegwyd risgiau newydd at y gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol; ni chafodd unrhyw risgiau corfforaethol eu dadactifadu; ni chafodd unrhyw risgiau eu codi i'r Gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol; ni chafodd unrhyw risgiau corfforaethol eu tynnu oddi ar y Gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol; newidiodd dwy risg gorfforaethol eu statws Coch Oren Gwyrdd (COG); a newidiodd pedair risg gorfforaethol eu sgôr risg weddilliol.

Roedd Atodiad A yn cyflwyno'r risgiau a gofnodwyd ar Gofrestr Risgiau Corfforaethol y cyngor ar 30 Medi 2023. Roedd yr adroddiadau ar gyfer pob risg yn cynnwys gwybodaeth esboniadol gyffredinol yn ymwneud â'u dosbarthiad.

Dilynydd hyn gan drafodaethau ar y canlynol: -

- Y ffaith bod y Pwyllgor yn ymwybodol o lefel a thebygolrwydd risg.
- Cyflwyno matrices pum sgôr a fyddai'n amlinellu tebygolrwydd ac effaith risg.
- Nifer yr agweddau a ddefnyddir i benderfynu ar lefel y risg.
- Adolygu sut mae awdurdodau lleol eraill yn mesur risg.
- Sicrhau bod y Pwyllgor yn derbyn hyfforddiant priodol ar risg.
- Hepgoriadau ar y gofrestr a fyddai'n cael eu diweddarau cyn yr adroddiad chwarterol nesaf.
- Gwybodaeth a hepgorwyd sy'n ymwneud â risg hyfforddiant gorfodol.

Byddai'r Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol yn dosbarthu'n wybodaeth a hepgorwyd sy'n ymwneud â risg hyfforddiant gorfodol, yn diweddarau'r gofrestr cyn yr adroddiad chwarterol nesaf ac yn rhoi manylion yr hyfforddiant.

## **58 Traciwr Argymhellion Archwilio Cymru**

Cyflwynodd y Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' a oedd yn cyflwyno traciwr a oedd yn darparu diweddariadau cynnydd wrth gyflawni argymhellion Archwilio Cymru.

Amlygwyd bod yr holl argymhellion perthnasol o adroddiadau cenedlaethol a lleol Archwilio Cymru wedi'u cofnodi mewn traciwr ac yn cael eu monitro ar gyfer cynnydd. Darparwyd y traciwr yn Atodiad A ac roedd yn rhestru'r adroddiad perthnasol gan Archwilio Cymru, yr argymhellion, y camau gweithredu roedd y cyngor yn bwriadu eu cymryd i roi'r argymhellion ar waith, y cynnydd hyd yn hyn a dyddiadau targed i'w cwblhau.



Roedd y daflen gyntaf yn y traciwr yn rhestru holl argymhellion Archwilio Cymru yr ystyriwyd eu bod wedi cau a'u cwblhau ym mis Tachwedd 2023. Roedd yr ail daflen yn y traciwr yn rhestru holl argymhellion Archwilio Cymru yr ystyriwyd eu bod yn agored ym mis Tachwedd 2023.

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd gyflwyno'r traciwr a thynnodd sylw at ei bwysigrwydd o hyn ymlaen. Holodd a oedd y cam gweithredu'n mynd i'r afael â'r argymhelliad ac a oedd wedi'i gwblhau mewn perthynas ag argymhellion Cymru gyfan ar adroddiad Archwilio Cymru 'Gyda'n Gilydd Fe Allwn Ni' - Cydnerthedd a hunandibyniaeth cymunedau' Byddai'r Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol yn adolygu'r wybodaeth yn y traciwr.

Yn ogystal, gofynnodd y Cadeirydd i adroddiad y traciwr archwilio gael ei ddarparu i bob yn ail cyfarfod Pwyllgor yn y dyfodol.

## **59 Archwilio Cymru - Pennu Amcanion Lles - Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

Cyflwynodd y Rheolwr Cyflwyno a Pherfformiad Strategol adroddiad 'er gwybodaeth' Archwilio Cymru ac ymateb y cyngor ynghylch pennu amcanion lles.

Eglurwyd bod adroddiad Archwilio Cymru wedi cyflawni dyletswydd yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol i gynnal archwiliad i asesu i ba raddau yr oedd cyrff cyhoeddus wedi gweithredu'n unol â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth bennu eu hamcanion lles.

Nod yr archwiliad oedd:

- esbonio sut roedd Cyngor Abertawe (y cyngor) wedi cymhwyso'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy drwy holl broses pennu ei amcanion lles;
- darparu sicrwydd ynghylch i ba raddau yr oedd y cyngor wedi cymhwyso'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth bennu ei amcanion lles; a
- nodi cyfleoedd i'r cyngor wreiddio'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy ymhellach wrth bennu ei amcanion lles yn y dyfodol.

Aeth Archwilio Cymru ati i ateb y cwestiwn 'i ba raddau y mae'r cyngor wedi gweithredu'n unol â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth bennu ei amcanion lles newydd?'

Gwnaethant hyn drwy archwilio'r cwestiynau canlynol: -

- A oedd yr egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy'n sail i'r broses a roddwyd ar waith gan y cyngor i bennu ei amcanion lles?
- A yw'r cyngor wedi ystyried sut bydd yn sicrhau y gall gyflwyno'i amcanion lles yn unol â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy?
- A yw'r cyngor wedi rhoi trefniadau ar waith i fonitro cynnydd a gwella sut mae'n cymhwyso'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth bennu ei amcanion lles?

Roedd Atodiad 1 adroddiad Archwilio Cymru yn rhestru'r dangosyddion cadarnhaol a ddefnyddiwyd gan Archwilio Cymru i lywio'u harchwiliad a'u hadroddiad.

Manylwyd ar ganfyddiadau Archwilio Cymru ac ymateb y cyngor. Nodwyd bod y Panel Craffu Gwella Gwasanaethau, Adfywio a Chyllid wedi ystyried adroddiad Archwilio Cymru ac ymateb y cyngor ar 17 Hydref 2023 a darparwyd y llythyr oddi wrth Cynullydd y Panel at Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau a Pherfformiad Corfforaethol yn Atodiad B.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y canlynol: -

- Adborth gan y Panel Dinasyddion Digidol, y potensial o'i ehangu a'r Pwyllgor yn cael ei hysbysu ynghylch cynnydd a wneir yn y dyfodol
- Y cynnydd a wnaed gan Gydgyhyrchu Cymru.
- Perfformiad corfforaethol a mesurau llwyddiant ar gyfer 2023/24, eu hadolygiad, gan gynnwys mesurau canlyniadau a threfnu bod y canlyniadau ar gael i'r Pwyllgor.

Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd i'r Pwyllgor gael yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ynghylch y cynnydd fel y rhestrwyd uchod.

## **60 Llythyr Archwilio Cymru - Adolygiad o Raglen Drawsnewid y cyngor**

Cyflwynodd Ness Young, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol, adroddiad a oedd yn darparu trosolwg o'r llythyr diweddar a anfonwyd gan Archwilio Cymru ynghylch y cynnydd yr oedd cyngor Abertawe yn ei wneud mewn perthynas â'i Raglen Trawsnewid.

Eglurwyd mai ffocws y gwaith oedd deall a oedd y cyngor yn cynllunio ac yn monitro'i ymagwedd at ei raglen trawsnewid sefydliadol a chyflwyno arbedion cysylltiedig mewn modd effeithiol. Darparwyd llythyr Archwilio Cymru yn Atodiad A.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn manylu ar ganfyddiadau Archwilio Cymru ac ymateb Cyngor Abertawe.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y canlynol: -

- Pwysigrwyd Pwyllgorau Trawsnewid Gwasanaethau yn y broses a bod yr holl Gyngorwyr yn ymwybodol o ddatblygiadau.
- Y broses o nodi arbedion, nodi a rheoli'r rhain yn glir drwy'r Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig.
- Cydnabod maint y rhaglenni dan sylw a faint o amser y bydd yn ei gymryd i'w cyflwyno.
- Amrywiaeth y dangosyddion perfformiad a ddefnyddir i fonitro cynnydd.

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd yr adroddiad llawn gwybodaeth. Nododd y swm enfawr o waith sydd ynghlwm wrth hyn a phwysleisiodd yr angen i osgoi dyblygu gwaith, wrth gael gwybod o hyd am ddatblygiadau, er mwyn i'r Pwyllgor gael sicrwydd o hyn ymlaen.

**Penderfynwyd: -**

- 1) Nodi'r argymhellion a wnaed yn yr adroddiad.
- 2) Rhoi'r diweddaraf i'r pwyllgor yn y Flwyddyn Newydd ynghylch cynnydd.

**61 Adroddiad Orlhain Camau Gweithredu'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio**

Adroddwyd am Adroddiad Orlhain Camau Gweithredu'r Pwyllgor Archwilio a Llywodraethu 'er gwybodaeth'.

**62 Cynllun Gwaith y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio**

Adroddwyd am Gynllun Gwaith y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio 'er gwybodaeth'.

Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd i'r sesiwn/sesiynau hyfforddiant gael ei drefnu/eu trefnu ar y meysydd canlynol: -

- Fframwaith Rheoli Perfformiad;
- Rheoli Risgiau;
- Archwilio Mewnol.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 3.58 pm

**Cadeirydd**

1.

2.

(A)

(B)

# Agenda Item 4



## Report of the Chief Auditor

Governance & Audit Committee – 17 January 2024

### Fundamental Audits 2022/23 Recommendation Tracker

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report provides a summary of the recommendations made following the fundamental audits in 2022/23 and identifies whether the agreed recommendations have been implemented.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Access to Services
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the contents of the report be discussed and noted.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Simon Cockings
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Stephen Holland
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Section has defined follow up procedures which are designed to provide assurance that agreed recommendations have been implemented by management within the agreed timescales. For fundamental audits, a Recommendations Tracker exercise is completed each year where the auditor will review the actions taken to implement the agreed recommendations.
- 1.2 The fundamental audits are the systems which are so significant to the achievement of the Council's objectives that they are audited either annually or every two years.

- 1.3 The Recommendations Tracker identifies the actions agreed by management at the end of each fundamental audit and confirms whether the accepted recommendations have been implemented by the agreed date.
- 1.4 This report summarises the position as at 30 September 2023 on the implementation of the recommendations made following the 2022/23 fundamental audits.

## **2. Recommendations Tracker 2022/23**

2.1 The following systems are considered to be fundamental and until 31 March 2014 were subject to an annual audit.

- Main Accounting System (2)
- Fixed Assets (2)
- Housing and Council Tax Benefit (2)
- Council Tax (2 + Follow-up)
- NNDR (2 + Follow-up)
- Cash (2)
- Accounts Payable (2 + Follow-up)
- Accounts Receivable (1)
- External Investments and Borrowing (2)
- Pension Fund Investments (2)
- Employee Services (Payroll) (2)
- Pensions Administration (2)
- Teachers Pensions (2)
- Housing Rents (2)

The fundamental audits are those systems that are considered to be most significant to the achievement of the Council's objectives. From 2014/15, a risk-based approach was taken to determine the required frequency of these audits. Any audits which had received the highest level of assurance for 3 consecutive years were moved to a 2-year cycle with audits receiving a lower assurance rating being completed annually. From 2023/24 we revised the planned timetable for the fundamental audits, as summarised below:

- i) Fundamental audits that receive a High Assurance rating are moved to a two-year audit cycle, with a full audit being completed every two years (noted as '2' above).
- ii) Fundamental audits that receive a Substantial Assurance rating are moved to a two-year audit cycle, with a full audit being completed every two years. In addition to this a follow-up audit will be completed in the first year to re-test all Medium and/or High-Risk recommendations (noted as '2 + Follow-up' above).

iii) Fundamental audits that receive a Moderate Assurance rating remain on an annual audit cycle, with a full audit being completed every year (noted as '1' above).

2.2 The number of years between each audit is shown in brackets above and is subject to an annual review as part of the audit planning process. It should also be noted that following the completion of the 2022/23 fundamental audits, 10 out of the 14 audits have received a High Assurance rating, three audits have a substantial assurance rating (Business Rates (NNDR), Accounts Payable and Council Tax). Accounts Receivable has a moderate assurance rating at the time of the last audit.

2.3 Appendix 1 shows, for each fundamental audit, the number of recommendations made following the 2022/23 audits and whether the recommendations have been implemented, partly implemented, not implemented or are not yet due.

2.4 The position as at the 30 September 2023 of the 61 recommendations made is summarised in the following table:

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Implemented	27	53
Partly Implemented	7	14
Not Implemented	7	14
Not Yet Due	10	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>

2.5 Ignoring the recommendations which are not yet due for implementation, the percentage of recommendations implemented by 30 September 2023 is 66%.

2.6 An analysis of classification of the recommendations noted as partly or not implemented is attached in Appendix 2 and further details of the recommendations can be found in Appendix 3.

2.7 Appendices 2 and 3 show that most of the recommendations that have either been partly implemented or have not been implemented relate to the Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable audits. The Accounts Receivable audit continues to be completed on an annual basis. The Accounts Payable audit is audited in full every two years but is also subject to a mid-cycle follow-up review. The implementation of the outstanding recommendations will be reviewed as part of the 2023/24 audits. The remaining outstanding recommendations relating to the other fundamental audits will be followed-up when the audits are next completed.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 Overall, the results of the Recommendations Tracker exercise to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 are positive with 27 (66%) of agreed recommendations due for implementation being fully implemented.
- 3.2 A small number of recommendations still require work to implement or are due for implementation prior to the end of the financial year. Progress on the implementation of these recommendations will be reviewed during the completion of the next audit.

### **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.



4.4 The completion of the Integrated Impact Assessment Screening revealed that:

- The Fundamental Audit Recommendation Tracker Report has a low positive impact across all groups.
- It has been subject to consultation with the Chief Finance & S151 Officer, Legal and Access to Services.
- All Well-being of Future Generations Act considerations are positive and any risks identified are low.
- The overall impact of the Fundamental Audit Recommendation Tracker Report is positive as it will support the Authority in its requirement to protect public funds.

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** Fundamental Audit Reports 2022/23.

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implementation of Recommendations  
Appendix 2 – Classification of Recommendations  
Appendix 3 – Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations  
Appendix 4 – Integrated Impact Assessment

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23  
Implementation of Recommendations**

Audit	Recommendations				Total No. of Recs.
	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Yet Due	
Fixed Assets (Capital Accounting)*	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Main Accounting</b>	1	0	0	0	1
Housing & Council Tax Benefit*	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cash</b>	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Business Rates (NNDR)</b>	0	4	1	3	8
<b>Council Tax</b>	4	0	0	1	5
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	7	0	1	6	14
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	7	3	4	0	14
<b>Treasury Management - B&amp;I</b>	2	0	0	0	2
Pension Fund Investments*	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Employee Services (Payroll)</b>	4	0	1	0	5
Pensions Admin*	0	0	0	0	0
Teachers Pensions*	0	0	0	0	0
Housing Rents*	0	0	0	0	0

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23**  
**Classification of Recommendations**

Audit	Partly Implemented				Not Implemented			
	HR	MR	LR	GP	HR	MR	LR	GP
Fixed Assets (Capital Accounting)*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Main Accounting</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing & Council Tax Benefit*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cash</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Business Rates (NDR)</b>	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Council Tax</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1
<b>Treasury Management - B&amp;I</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pension Fund Investments*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Employee Services (Payroll)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pensions Admin*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teachers Pensions*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing Rents*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Audits not due in 2022/23

Key

HR - High Risk

MR - Medium Risk

LR - Low Risk

GP - Good Practice

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

Report Ref	Recommendation	Class	Agreed Action/ Comments	Responsibility for Implementation	Implementation Date	Action Taken
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>						
<b>Disputes</b>						
2.2.6	Income should be clawed back from a service if a "Dispute" is not resolved within six months. <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	LR	The periodic dispute review process will be reviewed to ensure that all disputed invoices are followed up	MD/LB	Jun-23	<b>Not Implemented.</b> Not yet implemented due to the pressures on staff resource as a result of the ongoing issues with the Fusion system. This action will be implemented as soon as is practically possible. <b>Update 08/12/2023:</b> Since Fusion go-live in April 2023 the pressure on the AR Team has remained unrelenting. The Dispute lists continue to be sent to Heads of Service and Service Area managers every month as ultimately it is the Service Area responsibility to resolve these disputes. However, the AR section has been unable to make progress in this area, choosing to prioritise the testing of correct functionality, the raising of invoices, cash balancing, collection of Direct Debits, internal invoice admin requests, refunds and any debt recovery activities that we can fit in above the Dispute Clawback process. It is still recognised as an important process and once we see a reduction in the pressures on the section the outstanding invoice disputes will be reviewed.
<b>Accounts Payable</b>						

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

<b>Duplicate and Erroneous Payments</b>						
2.4.4 a) to d) & 2.4.9	Communications should be issued to all staff who have the ability to raise purchase orders, reminding them that the order should be raised in advance and not retrospectively. In exceptional circumstances where Orders are raised retrospectively, sufficient checks should be undertaken to ensure payment has not already been made. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Partly implemented. Update 11/12/23</b> -Accounting Instruction 4 updated requesting PO' created in advance of goods and services ordered. Comms will be released shortly to staff.
2.4.4 a) to d) & 2.4.9	Services should also be reminded that when placing an order that it is raised using the correct supplier	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Partly implemented</b> - Update 11/12/23 - will form part of above comms to be issued shortly.
<b>Payments over £50,000</b>						
2.8.3	It should be ensured that confirmation of checks undertaken by approving officers have been received prior to payments over £50k being submitted.	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Jun-23	<b>Not implemented</b> – NP needs to review, as current process allows officers 24hours to approve file after it has been transmitted. Undertaking a review will require resource from team and Accountancy. Giving the low risk of recommendation it is not a priority.
<b>Unallocated Suppliers Credits on the System</b>						

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

2.10.3	Procedure Notes should be reviewed and updated if necessary.	GP	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Not implemented</b> – not a priority due to high resource required to complete a low risk recommendation.
<b>Supplier with Address of Cashiers</b>						
2.13.5	The procedure note for Cheque Collection to be updated. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Not implemented</b> due to resource and low risk.
<b>Data Protection and Document Retention</b>						
2.17.2	A review of the records maintained should be undertaken as soon as time allows to ensure records are held in compliance with the agreed retention policy.	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Not implemented</b> due to resource and low risk.
<b>Other Issues – Accounting Instructions</b>						

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

2.18.1	Accounting Instructions No's 4 & 5 should be reviewed and updated. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	Agreed	Neil Payne	Sep-23	<b>Partly implemented.</b> Update 11/12/23 – A14 updated. A15 will be reviewed next.
<b>Employee Services - Payroll</b>						
<b>Leavers / Overpayments</b>						
2.3.1 & 2.4.1 e) f)	Action should be taken to ensure that the invoice raised for overpayments are paid and a record of steps taken noted on Oracle. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	Agreed – we now monitor a spreadsheet of overpayments, resource issues during the implementation of the Oracle project will impact this, further meetings will take place with AR post go live of Fusion	JJ	After fusion go live possibly April 2023	<b>Not Implemented</b> - This has been impacted by staff sickness and lack of resources we will address once supervisors return from sickness
<b>Business Rates (NNDR)</b>						
						<b>Partially implemented</b> - There is

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

2.3.5	Arrangements should be made to ensure all vacant properties are inspected and the void inspection report recorded on W2 or the Northgate system. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	A review of the parameters used to select cases for inspection needs to be made and consideration given to appointing an additional Void Inspector.	Paula Lewis / Julian Morgans	30.09.2023	a current rolling inspection timetable. A new void inspector position has been approved and is expected to go to external advert from 20/10/23 to increase resources in this area. Recruitment has/will be impacted by general delays with the recruitment process across the authority. <b>Update 13/12/23:</b> interviews for the position will be carried out on 19/12/23, however it is likely that due to delays in pre-employment checks the successful candidate will not be in post until Feb/March 2024.
2.6.1	Continued efforts should be made to address the backlog of accounts with arrears.	MR	Agreed.	Paula Lewis	On-going	<b>Partially Implemented -</b> Recruitment of additional staff to support this is already underway but is being severely impacted by general delays with the recruitment process across the authority. <b>Update 13/12/23:</b> start date confirmed of 8/1/24 and we hope that by the end of the year some progress will have been made on the current backlog of work



**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

2.6.3	All regular and routine procedures for the recovery of arrears should be reinstated.	MR	Agreed subject to sufficient resources being available.	Paula Lewis	On-going	<p><b>Partially Implemented</b> - This is a slow process and is reviewed regularly. Reminders are up to date and some progress is being made on catching up with court summons.</p> <p>Recruitment of additional staff to support this is already underway but is being severely impacted by general delays with the recruitment process across the authority.</p> <p><b>Update 13/12/23:</b> start date confirmed of 8/1/2024.</p>
2.6.4	Accounts with special arrangements should be monitored and action taken if the rate payer defaults on the arrangement. <i>(Previous Audit Recommendation)</i>	LR	Agreed subject to sufficient resources being available this can be done on a more regular basis.	Paula Lewis	On-going	<p><b>Not Implemented</b> - Little progress. Recruitment of additional staff to support this is already underway but is being severely impacted by general delays with the recruitment process across the authority.</p> <p><b>Update 13/12/23:</b> start date is confirmed as 8/1/2024. It is hoped that some progress on this can be made by the end of the financial year</p>

**Fundamental Audits 2022/23 - Recommendation Tracker**  
**Not or Partly Implemented Recommendations**

2.6.6	Cases identified as suitable for recovery by Bailiffs should be referred for collection.	LR	Agreed subject to sufficient resources being available this can be done on a more regular basis.	Paula Lewis	On-going	<p><b>Partially Implemented</b> - A small number of cases have been referred to enforcement agents, this work is ongoing. Recruitment of additional staff to support this is already underway but is being severely impacted by general delays with the recruitment process across the authority. <b>Update 13/12/23:</b> start date is confirmed as 8/1/2024. It is hoped that some progress on this can be made by the end of the financial year.</p>
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Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

**Which service area and directorate are you from?**

Service Area: Internal Audit

Directorate: Resources

**Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?**

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:**

Quarterly report to the Governance and Audit Committee outlining the follow up work undertaken by the Audit Team in the period.

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

n/a – no impact

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

**Q3** What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?  
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Consultation undertaken with the Chief Finance & S151 Officer, Legal, Access to Services.

**Q4** Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes  No

b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?

Yes  No

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes  No

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes  No

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**Q5** What is the potential risk of the initiative? *(Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)*

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

---

**Q6** Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

Council Services included within the Internal Audit planned programme of work for 2022/23 will be subject to internal audit reviews which may result in recommendations being made to improve compliance with Council policies and procedures and consequentially may result in changes to operations/processes within service areas if required.

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**Q7** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

To update committee on the follow up work undertaken by Internal Audit in the period in relation to tracking the implementation of the recommendations in the Fundamental Audits completed in 2022/23.

## Outcome of Screening

**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

The completion of the Integrated Impact Assessment Screening revealed that:

- The Fundamental Audit Recommendation Tracker Report has a potentially low positive impact across a number of identified groups.
- It has been subject to consultation with the Chief Finance & S151 Officer, Legal and Access to Services.
- All WFG considerations are positive and any risks identified are low.
- The overall impact of the Fundamental Audit Recommendation Tracker Report is positive as it will support the Authority in its requirement to protect public funds.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: Simon Cockings</b>
<b>Job title: Chief Auditor</b>
<b>Date: 28/12/23</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Ben Smith</b>
<b>Position: Chief Finance &amp; S151 Officer</b>
<b>Date: 28/12/23 (e-mail)</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 5



## Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Governance and Audit Committee – 17 January 2024

### Implementation of Accounts Receivable Internal Audit Service's (IAS) Follow Up Review Recommendations

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide an update on implementation of the IAS review of the Accounts Receivable function
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance and Access to Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that the contents of the report be discussed and noted.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Rachael Davies (Head of HR and Service Centre) & Michelle Davies (Cash Management & Accounts Receivable Manager)
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith (Director of Finance & S151)
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith (Deputy Chief Legal Officer)
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A

#### Internal Audit on Accounts Receivable Function – Update January 2024

##### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2022 Internal Audit undertook a review of the Accounts Receivable function, providing a Moderate assurance rating. The report made 12 recommendations and actions were agreed to address them. A follow up review report was issued in March 2023, which also provided 14 recommendations and a Moderate assurance rating as 3 actions from the previous review were still outstanding.
- 1.2 The Governance and Audit Committee received an update on progress in June 2023. This report provides a further update.

## 2. Progress summary July 2023 to December 2023

2.1 At the end of December 2023 eight of the fourteen agreed actions had been completed as follows:

- A reminder has been sent to the AR Team to advise them that:
  - all emails from services relating to the reconciliation of their interfaces should be saved on the AR server for evidence
  - Officers should use diary entries on Outlook when dealing with disputed invoices to ensure the timely recovery action is taken
  - the Daily Transaction register should be checked thoroughly to ensure there are no gaps in the invoice numbering and any invoices not in sequential order should be reviewed and recorded in the Deleted Items spreadsheet
  - care needs to be taken create the correct profile in the Customer Account to ensure “Dunning” reminders are issued
  - write-off proformas /email instructions should be saved to the customer’s account on the AR server in all instances
  - invoices on the Oracle AR system should be updated with the Write-Off status in a timely manner,
- The periodic dispute review process has been reviewed and income is being clawed back from a service if a dispute is not resolved within six months,
- Refund approval notes are now always being input on to the “Invoice Notes” screen in the AR system.

2.3 The three other high/medium risk recommendations continue to be progressed, as follows:

- invoices are now being escalated on a timely basis in accordance with established protocols
- Appropriate follow-up procedures with debtors or services and diarising of invoice reviews are being carried out by officers in the AR team as a matter of routine - Debt Recovery Activities (DRA) meetings are held monthly ensuring maintained focus on debt recovery. Priorities are regularly reviewed, and progress is monitored. Where debtors have not paid within the timescales allowed, decisions are being made on whether to refer the invoice to Legal or submit for write-off, focusing on the oldest and highest value debts
- The backlog of unpaid invoices is being worked on as staff capacity allows

2.4 The AR Team is aiming to implement the recommendations in 2.3 in full by September 2024 at the latest, albeit recognising that there will always be a level of overdue debt. Additional staff resources may be required to achieve this, and this will be kept under review.

2.5 Table A presents a monthly breakdown of the council's total outstanding debt profile since the previous Committee update in June 2023.

**Table A: July – November 2023 Monthly Analysis of Total Outstanding Debt**

2023 (£)	Total O/S debt 30 to >365 Days	> 365 days	120-365 Days	60-119 Days	30-59 Days	0-29 Days
July	8,179,737	2,185,052	3,111,453	2,069,234	813,998	2,817,662
August	7,659,300	2,187,112	3,247,455	1,377,190	847,543	4,129,864
September	5,918,158	2,221,162	1,184,158	702,516	1,810,322	2,792,077
October	6,017,183	2,294,240	1,174,381	1,790,988	757,574	46,228,348
November	7,032,935	2,356,050	1,541,538	1,708,312	1,427,035	52,430,152
Average	6,961,463	2,248,723	2,051,797	1,529,648	1,131,294	

2.6 As Table A shows, reducing outstanding debt continues to fluctuate and to be a challenge due to the impact of the global economic situation as well as limited staff capacity in part due to implementation of the Oracle Fusion system. However, additional staff resource has now been secured for the remainder of the financial year which should help the position in the final quarter.

2.7 The figures shown in the final column of Table 1 represent the value of payments the council expects to receive within the normal expected payment period based on invoices raised and is not therefore considered to be overdue. Overall, the level of overdue debt (i.e., debt of 30 days, to more than 365 days) fell from £8.2 million in July to £7 million in November. While this shows an improving picture since July, the November figures are ten percent higher than the previous 12 months' monthly average.

2.8 Looking at this more closely, the latest debt position:

- Includes a few high value invoices for a small number of customers, as well as a high number of invoices with an average value of £75. The pursuit of these debts are being prioritised in DRA meetings, based on their value and volume.
- Reflects the council's requirement to adhere to the UK Government's Debt Respite Scheme (known as Breathing Space) which provides a debtor with the right to legal protections from their creditors in specific circumstances. The total number of Breathing Space notifications received by Swansea Council has doubled in this financial year (2023/2024) compared to the previous 2 financial years, reflecting the significant impact of the 'Cost of Living' crisis on debt recovery actions in Swansea. Whilst these notifications relate to individuals who have sought official help with problem debt it is indicative of the financial climate for families and small businesses who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Has been impacted by implementation of the Oracle Fusion system. Since June 2023, the AR team has had to learn the new system and to manage some limitations in the software functionality. We are exploring potential system improvements with Oracle and are re-designing the invoice



interface process internally which should in time release more staff capacity to work on debt recovery activity.

- 2.9 Notwithstanding the challenges, the AR team continues to make progress, referring outstanding debts to Legal, with 66 invoices totalling £69,511 being referred between July and December 2023. In addition, outstanding debt of £20,563 in respect of 93 invoices has been written off in the current financial year. There are a small number of disputed invoices and several payment plan agreements in place under which repayments are being made by debtors.
- 2.10 The AR Team, with support from Legal Services, continues to prioritise reducing the aged debt position, within the context of the Council’s flexible collection policy and negotiating with debtors wherever possible. It is anticipated that directing additional staff resource solely to support debt recovery activity for the remainder of the financial year, will assist with end of year figures.
- 2.11 The following three remaining low priority actions will be progressed by the AR Team during 2024-25 as resources allow:
- Introduce bi-monthly reviews of invoices with “awaiting evidence” status
  - Undertake a review with officers in Legal Services of all invoices with the status “Referred to Legal”
  - All physical/electronic records must be disposed of in accordance with the Council’s official retention policy.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications other than those set out in the body of the report.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications other than those set out in the body of the report.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:**

<b>Appendix A</b>	Accounts Receivable internal audit report action plan points
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## APPENDIX A

### Accounts Receivable internal audit report action plan points

Ref	Recommendation	Risk Level	Agreed Action	Lead	Completion Date
<b>Interfaces</b>					
2.1.4	All emails from services relating to the reconciliation of their interfaces should be saved on the AR server for evidence.  <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	GP	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	Implemented April 2023
<b>Disputes</b>					
2.2.5	Officers in AR team should use diary entries on Outlook when dealing with disputed invoices to ensure the timely recovery action is taken.  <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	LR	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	Implemented April 2023
2.2.6	Income should be clawed back from a service if a "Dispute" is not resolved within six months.  <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	LR	The periodic dispute review process will be reviewed to ensure that all disputed invoices are followed up	MD/LB	Implemented June 2023
<b>Invoices</b>					
3.3.1	The Daily Transaction register should be checked thoroughly to ensure there are no gaps in the invoice numbering and any invoices not in sequential order should be reviewed and recorded in the Deleted Items spreadsheet.	LR	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	Implemented April 2023
<b>Debt Recovery</b>					
3.6.4	Staff should be reminded of the importance of creating the correct profile in the Customer Account to ensure "Dunning" reminders are issued.	LR	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	Implemented April 2023
3.6.5	All invoices should be escalated on a timely basis in accordance with established protocols. Where debtors have not paid within the timescales allowed, a decision should be made on whether to refer the invoice to Legal or submit for write-off.  <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	HR	This action is being implemented as quickly as available staff resources will allow. We are aiming for full implementation by September 2024 at the latest.	MD/LB	September 2024
3.6.6	The backlog of unpaid invoices should be addressed at the earliest opportunity.  <i>(Previous audit recommendation)</i>	MR	This action is being implemented as quickly as available staff resources will allow. We are aiming for full implementation by September 2024 at the latest.	MD/LB	September 2024

Ref	Recommendation	Risk Level	Agreed Action	Lead	Completion Date
3.6.8	a) Appropriate follow-up procedures with debtors or services and diarising of invoice reviews should be carried out by officers in the AR team as a matter of routine. <b>(Previous audit recommendation)</b>	MR	This action is being implemented as quickly as available staff resources will allow. We are aiming for full implementation by September 2024 at the latest.	MD/LB	September 2024
3.6.8	b) Invoices on "Awaiting Evidence" status should be reviewed on a bi-monthly basis.	LR	Bimonthly reviews will be in place during 2024-25	MD/LB	March 2025
<b>Invoices with Legal</b>					
3.7.3	A review of all invoices with the status of "Referred to Legal" should be carried out with officers in Legal Services. <b>(Previous audit recommendation)</b>	LR	The review will be undertaken during 2024-25	MD/LB	March 2025
<b>Write-Offs</b>					
3.8.2 b)	Write-off proformas/email instructions should be saved to the customer's account on the AR server in all instances.	LR	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	April 2023
3.8.2 c)	Invoices on the Oracle AR system should be updated with the Write-Off status in a timely manner.	GP	A reminder will be issued to the AR team	MD	April 2023
<b>Refunds</b>					
3.9.2	Refund approval notes should always be input on to the "Invoice Notes" screen in the AR system. <b>(Previous audit recommendation)</b>	GP	Investigations revealed that notes were being made on the debit memo rather than the invoice by one member of staff. This has now been corrected	MD	Implemented
<b>GDPR/Data Retention</b>					
3.11. 3	All physical/electronic records must be disposed of in accordance with the Council's official retention policy. <b>(Previous audit recommendation)</b>	LR	The team will work on records management when workloads allow	LB	March 2025

# Agenda Item 6



## Report of the Head of Digital & Customer Services Governance & Audit Committee – 17 January 2024

### Audit Wales Digital Strategy Review

<b>Purpose:</b>	To present the Audit Wales review of the Digital Strategy 2023-28.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Performance Management Framework Transformation & Financial Resilience well-being goal within the Corporate Plan Successful and Sustainable Swansea
<b>Consultation:</b>	Finance and Legal.
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Sarah Lackenby
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Audit Wales have undertaken a review of the digital strategies of the 22 principal Councils in Wales.
- 1.2 The review sought to provide assurance that Councils' digital strategies will help to deliver well-being objectives, are in accordance with the sustainable development principle, are meeting people's needs, and delivering better outcomes. This work also builds on the 'springing forward' review undertaken during 2021-22.

#### 2. Findings

- 2.1 The Audit Wales review (Appendix A) concluded that the Council:

- Has a clear vision for its approach to digital and is developing comprehensive arrangements to support the delivery and monitoring of its digital strategy.
- Used a wide range of different sources to inform its digital strategy
- Has a clear digital vision and is planning to deliver its vision over an appropriate timescale.
- Understands the wider impact of digital and works collaboratively to help deliver its digital aspirations.
- Has allocated resources to deliver its digital strategy and has arrangements to assess the costs, benefits and risks.
- Has comprehensive arrangements to assess and monitor the impact of the Council's digital approach and the value for money.

2.2 Audit Wales also made one recommendation (Appendix B). The previous strategy ran from 2015 to 2020 and began at the point the Council was exiting the external Capgemini contract. Although the Council reviewed its previous digital strategy, this was not a formal review and Members did not receive its outcome. This was due to the timing of the pandemic. At the end of March 2020, the Council went into business continuity mode because of the COVID19 pandemic.

2.3 In the report, Audit Wales acknowledges the lack of a formal review has not prevented the Council from improving its arrangements to monitor and assess the current strategy, particularly arrangements to assess the costs and benefits of financially supporting the implementation of digital projects.

2.4 The Council responded to the Audit Wales recommendation with a set of actions that will help the review of the current digital strategy in 2027, capturing any and all learning as part of developing and agreeing the new strategy from 2028 onwards.

### **3. Integrated Assessment Implications**

3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- This report is for information only. Any activities following this report will be subject to the IIA process as required.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

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

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A	Audit Wales Digital Strategy Review Report
Appendix B	Recommendation and Response

## Digital Strategy Review – City and County of Swansea

Audit year: 2022-23

Date issued: October 2023

Document reference: 3823A2023

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

This document is also available in Welsh.



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# Report summary

## Report summary

### Exhibit 1: report summary

The exhibit below summarises the reason we undertook this audit, our key findings and recommendations for the Council.

#### Why a strategic approach to digital is important

- 1 Digital technology is key to delivering a wide range of council services in a more economic, efficient and effective way, is also an important means of councils delivering their wellbeing objectives and carrying out sustainable development.
- 2 Having a clearly articulated strategic approach to digital can bring several benefits such as:
  - establishing a common vision for use of digital and the intended outcomes for local communities linked to the council's strategic objectives;
  - helping to ensure that councils' use of digital technology is aligned with their key strategic objectives and other plans and strategies and is informed by a good understanding of current and future trends;
  - reducing the risk of duplication both within councils and with partners;
  - consideration of resourcing digital over the short, medium and longer term together; and
  - providing a framework against which to monitoring progress over the short, long and medium term.

#### The focus of our audit

- 3 We looked at the extent to which the Council's strategic approach to digital has been developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle and that it will help to secure value for money in the use of the Council's resources.

#### Our key findings

- 4 We found that the Council has a clearly articulated strategic approach to digital that is informed by a good understanding of current and future trends and is understood by key elected members and officers. It also has comprehensive arrangements to assess and monitor the impact of its digital approach and the value for money. The Council also understands the wider impact of digital and works collaboratively to help deliver its digital aspirations. The Council reviewed its previous digital strategy, but this was not a formal review and members did not receive its outcome.

## Our recommendation for the Council

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### Strategy review benefits

- R1 When the Council conducts future reviews of its digital strategy, to help ensure it learns from the reviews and shares this learning widely the Council should:
- determine if it had sufficient and appropriate information at the outset to determine the value and benefits of delivering the strategy overall and individual digital projects;
  - assess whether digital projects were delivered on time, to cost with perceived benefits being realised and identify any barriers preventing successful delivery of projects;
  - review the timeliness of its monitoring and reporting of progress to assess if emerging risks and issues were highlighted earlier enough for officers to deliver mitigating actions; and
  - review the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for its digital strategy to ensure they effectively support its delivery.

# Detailed report

## What we looked at and why – the scope of this audit

- 1 We reviewed the Council's strategic approach to digital, and specifically the extent to which this has been developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle; and that it will help to secure value for money in the use of the Council's resources.
- 2 Our findings are based on document reviews and interviews with a sample of Cabinet Members and senior officers. The evidence we have used to inform our findings is limited to these sources. We undertook this review in June and July 2023.
- 3 We set out to answer the question '**In developing its digital strategy has the Council acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle and put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of its resources?**' We did this by exploring the following questions:
  - Is the Council's digital strategy informed by a good understanding of current and future trends?
  - Does the Council have a clear vision of what it wants to achieve through the use of digital technology?
  - Is the Council working effectively with the right people and partners to design and deliver its digital strategy?
  - Has the Council resourced delivery of its digital strategy so it can deliver long-term/preventative benefits?
  - Is the Council monitoring and reviewing progress?
  - Is the Council learning lessons from how it works?
- 4 **Appendix 1** sets out the detailed questions we set out to answer along with the audit criteria we used to arrive at our findings.

## Why we undertook this audit

- 5 This audit was undertaken to help fulfil the Auditor General's duties under section 17 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 6 We sought to:
  - provide assurance that councils' digital strategies will help to deliver well-being objectives in a way that secures value for money in the use of resources;
  - provide assurance that councils are acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the design of their digital strategies;

- explain how councils are using/planning to use digital technology to meet people's needs and deliver better outcomes; and
- inspire and empower councils and other public sector bodies by identifying and sharing examples of notable practice/approaches where relevant.

## The Council's digital strategy

- 7 In April 2023, Cabinet approved the Council's current digital strategy 2023-28.
- 8 The Council's vision for digital as stated within the strategy is for the Council 'to use digital technology to improve people's lives, to enable digital access to services 24 hours a day, and to improve operational efficiency'.
- 9 This vision is supported by six digital strategic goals:
1. Excellent Customer Service aligned with our service standards
  2. People focused digital services
  3. Resilient digital infrastructure and systems
  4. Accessible data that supports communities and council performance
  5. Digitally skilled and confident workforce and communities
  6. A digitally connected city and county
- 10 The Council has allocated an initial £2 million to support delivery of its digital strategy.

## What we found: The Council has a clear vision for its approach to digital and is developing comprehensive arrangements to support the delivery and monitoring of its digital strategy

### The Council used a wide range of different sources to inform its digital strategy

- 11 The Council considered an extensive range of current data and likely future trends when developing its digital ambitions resulting in a good understanding of its current situation. The Council's strategic digital approach was informed by:
- the National Survey for Wales 2021-22 results;
  - the Office of National Statistics data on access to the internet, internet usage and technology devices;
  - the demographic profile of Swansea and how it might change in the long term and the potential impact on the Council's digital approach;
  - the Older People's Commissioner for Wales guidance issued in November 2021 on – 'Ensuring access to information and services in a digital age';

- risks and opportunities highlighted in the Council's Digital Service service plans; and
  - public consultation.
- 12 The Council is also agile in its thinking in how services may need to evolve in the longer-term. The Council's use of data and intelligence to identify future, potential long-term trends, strengthens the Council's ability to evolve its approach to meet future demands and opportunities.
- 13 The Council consulted the public to inform its digital strategy. This included diverse sectors of the population, for example, the over 50s forum, a Welsh Language forum, Poverty forum and Disability Liaison group. The Council analysed the data and consultation responses to inform its final digital strategy. Through its analysis, the Council identified the importance of retaining traditional means of communication, such as face-to-face and telephone options as it expands online services. The Council wants to ensure the methods of accessing and communicating with the Council are flexible, so residents are not limited to one route. By involving the diversity of its citizens in developing its strategic digital approach, helps the Council to have assurance it is designing an approach that meets citizens' needs and is more likely to secure value for money.

### **The Council has a clear digital vision and is planning to deliver its vision over an appropriate timescale**

- 14 The Council is several years into its digital transformation journey. The Council began its digital transformation in 2015. The priority at that time was ensuring the County had the right digital infrastructure for internet capacity and capability. The digital projects currently being scoped and delivered are a result of the improvements to the digital infrastructure.
- 15 The County has improved its digital infrastructure since 2015, and so its vision has also evolved to 'use digital technology to improve people's lives, to enable digital access to services 24 hours a day, and to improve operational efficiency'. This vision is set out in the Council's 2023-28 digital strategy. The Council has communicated this vision across the organisation and is understood across services and among key Elected Members. This means there is a wide and common understanding of what the Council is aiming to achieve.
- 16 The Council has considered what is an appropriate timescale for its digital strategy. The Council has adopted a five-year timeframe to reflect the change and pace of digital technology evolving. The timeframe for the current digital strategy aligns with corporate planning and the electoral cycle. However, the vision and digital strategic goals will be delivered over a longer-term as will the digital strategy's eight outcomes. The Council intend to review the strategy's progress in 2028 and use this learning to inform the next iteration of its strategic digital approach.

## The Council understands the wider impact of digital and works collaboratively to help deliver its digital aspirations

- 17 The Council is committed to aligning its digital approach with partners. A Digital Transformation Board oversees the digital strategy and this Board forms part of the Council's wider corporate transformation programme. The digital strategy clearly aligns with 'Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea' (The Council's Corporate Strategy 2023-28), in particular with the Council's wellbeing objective of 'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure'. Digital transformation is one of the priorities supporting the Council's delivery of this well-being objective. Including digital transformation within the Corporate Plan raises its profile and its importance for the Council in delivering its wider transformation programme that has the potential to improve service efficiency and effectiveness for its workforce and service-users.
- 18 There is clear alignment between the Council's Workforce Strategy and Plan 2022-27 and the Digital Strategy. The Workforce Strategy has a role to deliver improved digital skills and confidence and the Council's Asset Management Plan 2021-2025 refers to using digital technology to implement the Council's Agile Programme. The Council view digital as a key enabler in achieving other Council priorities.
- 19 Through analysing data and understanding current rates of digital exclusions, the Council is committed to reduce exclusion rates. This commitment aligns closely with the Public Services Board action to reduce digital exclusion. In addition, the digital strategy aligns with the City Deal digital programme business case and the Council considered the Welsh Government Digital Strategy for Wales in its consideration of its own digital ambitions and priorities. At the time of our fieldwork, while the Local Health Board had not yet finalised its digital strategy, the Council has representation on the relevant Health Board working group tasked with producing it. Consideration of other stakeholders' digital intentions and alignment of internal and external strategies can help the Council in sharing of resources, avoid duplication of efforts and help to identify opportunities to deliver multiple benefits.
- 20 The Council developed critical success factors based on the five ways of working of the sustainable development principle to help it assess whether the benefits and outcomes of its digital transformation programme will be realised. In addition, the Council has considered how the digital strategy can contribute to the national wellbeing goals. This strengthens the Council's ability to measure the impact of its strategic approach.
- 21 The Council values partnership working in delivering its digital strategic ambitions. The Council's annual review of performance 2021-22 details many different collaborative activities with other councils in the region, the private sector and the third sector to improve digital connectivity, digital infrastructure, digital inclusion, and digital skills. The digital strategy refers to partnership working for example through the City Deal and with education partners. The Council also has a constructive collaboration with a Business Improvement District. This partnership

recognises each organisation's skills and expertise, and is working together to develop a product that it hopes will jointly benefit both businesses and the public.

- 22 The Council is a key partner in the Swansea Bay City Deal's Digital Infrastructure Programme and the partnership works collaboratively to assist each other deliver its digital transformation strategy as well as supporting economic growth and improving social inclusion. Working in partnership can result in a sharing of knowledge, expertise and/or resources that can lead to better outcomes whilst also improving value for money.

### **The Council has allocated resources to deliver its digital strategy and has arrangements to assess the costs, benefits and risks**

- 23 The Council views digital as a key enabler of change for driving transformational improvement and has allocated £2 million to help fund delivery of its strategic digital approach. The Council allocated this amount based on the end of financial year balance from the Council's Restructuring Reserve. The Council has also used this reserve to fund other aspects of its wider transformational programme, so the rationale as to why the Council allocated this amount for digital is unclear. While allocating specific funding for digital transformation demonstrates the Council's commitment and recognition of its importance, the current source of funding from a reserve's balance may fluctuate over time. This could lead to services being unclear on the future availability of funding resulting in potential uncertainty from services to develop future digital projects, particularly for services unable to secure external sources of funding.
- 24 The Council has set up a structured approach to assess the costs, benefits and risks for each digital project requesting funding. Services that submit plans to the Digital Transformation Board must include estimated costs, any Medium-Term Financial Plan savings, expected benefits and project risks. To assess each digital project, the Council developed a robust scoring criteria to determine which digital projects to financially support within the overall funding available. In June 2023, the Digital Transformation Board considered the first tranche of projects. The Board considered 21 projects with 6 receiving financial support to deliver the digital projects over the medium-term. For those digital projects not approved for the £2m digital fund, there are other sources of funding, such as the Housing Revenue Account and Education Fund, therefore will still be delivered.

### **There are comprehensive arrangements to assess and monitor the impact of the Council's digital approach and the value for money**

- 25 The Council has established comprehensive arrangements that should provide a basis for it to effectively monitor individual digital projects and its digital strategy. However some of the arrangements are new, or under development so it is too early to assess their effectiveness.



- 26 The Council set up a Digital Transformation Board to oversee the digital strategy and individual digital projects. The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation chairs the Digital Transformation Board. Each directorate is represented on the Board as well as officers from corporate functions such as HR, finance, and the digital team. Representation across Council services can reduce the risk of duplication of efforts, it can identify opportunities for different services to collaborate to deliver multiple benefits and ensure a common understanding of the Council's digital priorities.
- 27 The Digital Transformation Board will monitor progress and risks for all digital projects regardless of funding source, therefore providing corporate oversight of all digital transformation projects. As the Council has allocated funding for its first tranche of digital projects, at the time of our fieldwork, the Council was developing a 'benefits' tracker which the Digital Transformation Board will be responsible for monitoring. This oversight has the potential to help the Council to have a comprehensive view of all its digital transformation projects, identify areas of success, and projects not delivering to time or delivering intended benefits.
- 28 The Council has identified performance measures to support its digital strategy but currently these measures are not supported with baseline data, targets or timescales. At the time of our fieldwork, the Council were compiling a Programme Plan which should include greater detail on how the Council plans to deliver the different aspects of the strategy and by when. Without this detail, it will be difficult for the Council to monitor progress, achievement of its desired outcomes and to determine if it is securing value for money.
- 29 The Council does have information at an individual digital project level to be able to determine progress and value for money in the future. Services that submit digital project ideas to the Digital Transformation Board need to demonstrate alignments with the sustainable development principle, Council's digital strategy as well as:
- MTFP saving (with amount and by when);
  - identifying other funding opportunities;
  - non cashable benefits; and
  - whether the project directly improves customer service.
- 30 The Council has developed a robust scoring criteria to assess the merits of the individual proposed digital projects based on the above detail provided by services. The scoring criteria is comprehensive and designed to include several key components to aid decision making and consider the future outcomes of each project.
- 31 By requesting that services stipulate the costs and benefits of individual projects when requesting financial support, the Council has the information at the outset to assess and monitor the costs and benefits when monitoring progress.

### **The Council reviewed its previous digital strategy, but this was not a formal review and members did not receive its outcome**

- 32 The Council reviewed the previous digital strategy to establish what it achieved compared to what the Council set out to achieve. This was not a formal review and Cabinet did not receive the outcome however, we recognise the previous strategy ended at the time when the Council's priority was responding to the pandemic. The review did not look at the wider arrangements in place at that time to oversee the monitoring and reporting of the previous strategy. However, the lack of a formal review has not prevented the Council from improving its arrangements to monitor and assess the current strategy, particularly arrangements to assess the costs and benefits of financially supporting the implementation of digital projects.
- 33 The Council is committed to learning lessons from delivering its current digital strategy. The Council intend to complete an audit of its Digital Strategy and Programme Plan in 2026 and review the strategy and produce an end of Programme closure report in 2028. Reviewing the effectiveness of its strategic approach, and learning and sharing lessons from this can help the Council to improve the effectiveness and value for money of its approach in future.

# Appendix 1

## Audit questions and audit criteria

Below are the questions we sought to answer in carrying out this audit, along with the audit criteria we used to arrive at our findings.

Main audit question: **In developing its digital strategy has the Council acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle and put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of its resources?**

### Exhibit 2: audit questions and audit criteria

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
1. Is the Council's digital strategy informed by a good understanding of current and future trends?	1.1 Is there is a thorough understanding of the 'as is' (ie current demand/issues to be addressed) and the reasons why/underlying causes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has drawn on a broad range of information from internal and external sources to develop a thorough understanding of the 'as is' and how it is likely to change. This includes information (including data) relating to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– service sustainability/resilience and resourcing challenges.</li> <li>– the needs of citizens and communities.</li> <li>– the underlying causes of current demand/issues to be addressed.</li> <li>– analysis of future trends and how they might impact, eg social, economic/political, environmental, cultural or technological. They might include known trends eg ageing population, depleting natural resources and particularly technological advances. They might also include those with a higher level of uncertainty eg jobs and skills needed in the future.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The analysis of the 'as is' and how it is likely to change is well informed by involvement activity, as appropriate, that reflects recognised good practice (eg <a href="#">National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales</a>, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales advice and guidance).</li> <li>• The Council uses its evidence base effectively to:</li> </ul>
	1.2 Is there a thorough understanding of the long-term factors that will impact and the challenges and opportunities that may result (eg risks and opportunities)?	

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– identify actions in its strategic approach to digital that are likely to be most effective and why, including how they could address the root causes of problems;</li> <li>– inform decisions around its use of digital technology that seek to balance the need to meet short and longer-term objectives.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Does the Council have a clear vision of what it wants to achieve through the use of digital technology?</p>	<p>2.1 Is the Council planning over an appropriate timescale?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has considered what long term means in planning its approach to digital – ie how far ahead it can/should plan and why (at least ten years with consideration of longer-term trends as appropriate).</li> <li>• The Council has considered how actions can deliver the best impact over that timeframe in terms of outcomes and most effective use of resources. This could include consideration of appropriate intervention points linked to the Commissioner’s definition of prevention. (More details can be found in: <a href="#">Taking account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in the budget process – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales</a>).</li> <li>• The Council has set out measures for its digital strategy that reflect short and long-term impacts and value for money, with milestones that reflect progress as appropriate.</li> <li>• The Council has set out how its digital strategy will be resourced over the longer term as far as is practical (see also criteria relating to integration).</li> </ul>
	<p>2.2 Has the Council thought about the wider impacts its digital strategy could have, including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has considered how its digital strategy can make a contribution across the well-being goals.</li> <li>• Staff developing the digital strategy understand what colleagues and partners do and how their work relates, and have sought to integrate their</li> </ul>

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how it could contribute to each of the seven national well-being goals?</li> <li>• how delivery will impact on the other things it is trying to achieve (ie its well-being objectives and wider priorities)?</li> <li>• how delivery will impact on other what other public bodies are trying to achieve (ie their well-being objectives)?</li> </ul>	<p>work with that of their colleagues from across the Council and with partner organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration is evident in the alignment of the digital strategy with other key corporate strategies and service plans. For example medium-term financial plan, workforce plan, asset management strategies, well-being statement and carbon reduction plans.</li> <li>• The digital strategy is aligned with other strategic intents such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– customer experience;</li> <li>– management of demand/reductions in demand failure and prevention; and</li> <li>– design and implementation of new service delivery models.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Council's digital strategy aligns with the plans/strategies of local and national partners including the Welsh Government's Digital Strategy for Wales Digital strategy and well-being plans.</li> </ul>
	2.3 Is there a wide and common understanding of what the Council is trying to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors and senior officers responsible for implementing the digital strategy have a common and clear understanding of what the Council is trying to achieve and the intended impact on service delivery.</li> <li>• The Council's digital strategy is clearly communicated to staff and partners who may help deliver it.</li> </ul>

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
<p>3. Is the Council working effectively with the right people and partners to design and deliver its digital strategy</p>	<p>3.1 Has the Council identified who it needs to involve?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a good understanding of who will be directly and indirectly affected by its digital strategy and who it needs to involve.</li> <li>• The Council has effectively involved the full diversity of views in developing its digital strategy, including from non-traditional sources and from those it may have previously failed to reach.</li> </ul>
	<p>3.2 Is the Council effectively involving the full diversity of people affected by its digital strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has provided genuine opportunities for people to influence the design and delivery of its digital strategy from an early stage, including representatives of groups who share protected characteristics.</li> <li>• The Council has used the results of involvement to shape the design and delivery of its digital strategy.</li> </ul>
	<p>3.3 Is the Council collaborating effectively with the right partners?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council is collaborating to ensure it delivers better outcomes and value for money through its digital strategy and has put appropriate arrangements in place to support this, for example for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– sharing or pooling expertise and resources;</li> <li>– sharing information;</li> <li>– ensuring effective monitoring, evaluation and accountability including consideration of value for money.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
<p>4. Has the Council resourced delivery of its digital strategy so it can deliver long-term/preventative benefits?</p>	<p>4.1 Does the Council understand long-term resource implications?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has assessed the costs and benefits of using digital technology to invest in long-term, preventative approaches and the cost (both financial and in terms of outcomes) of not doing so.</li> <li>• The Council has thought about the resources it will need to deliver its digital strategy over the medium and longer term (whole life costs) and how it could manage risks/meet those costs including, for example, planned 'invest to save' initiatives and managed reductions in technical debt.</li> <li>• The Council has calculated and set out any savings it intends to make through implementing its digital strategy.</li> </ul>
	<p>4.2 Does the Council allocate resources to deliver better outcomes over the long-term?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action (including preventative action) that is likely to contribute to better outcomes and/or use of resources over the longer term is promoted and supported, even: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– where this may limit the ability to meet some short-term needs;</li> <li>– where the benefits are likely to be accrued by or attributed to another organisation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Level 2 questions	Level 3 questions	Criteria
5. Is the Council monitoring and reviewing progress?	5.1 Is the Council monitoring and reviewing progress towards, short, medium and longer-term objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council monitors the costs and benefits of delivering its digital strategy from a value for money perspective.</li> <li>• The Council is measuring the wider contribution the digital strategy is making across its own/partnership objectives.</li> <li>• Progress is measured against short, medium and long-term objectives.</li> </ul>
6. Is the Council learning lessons from how it works?	6.1 Does the Council review the effectiveness of its digital strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council regularly reviews the effectiveness of its digital strategy including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– effectiveness of its collaborative activity;</li> <li>– effectiveness of its involvement activity, including the impact of the strategy on service users including those who are digitally excluded;</li> <li>– the impact of the strategy on those who share protected characteristics;</li> <li>– the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the digital strategy overall in helping the Council to achieve its strategic objectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Council has reviewed lessons learned from its response to the pandemic and is applying this learning to its digital strategy.</li> </ul>
	6.2 Does the Council share lessons learned from its approach to its digital strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council shares and applies any lessons learned from the development and delivery of its digital strategy widely across the organisation, and with partners where relevant.</li> </ul>







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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

## Organisational response

**Report title:** Digital Strategy Review

**Completion date:** October 2023

**Document reference:** 3823A2023

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Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	<p>When the Council conducts future reviews of its digital strategy, to help ensure it learns from the reviews and shares this learning widely the Council should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. determine if it had sufficient and appropriate information at the outset to determine the value and benefits of delivering the strategy overall and individual digital projects;</li> <li>b. assess whether digital projects were delivered on time, to cost with perceived benefits being realised and identify any barriers preventing successful delivery of projects;</li> <li>c. review the timeliness of its monitoring and reporting of progress to assess if emerging risks and issues were highlighted earlier enough for officers to deliver mitigating actions; and</li> </ol>	<p><b>The Council will undertake a review from 2027 onwards as a new revised Digital Strategy will be underway. This work will comprise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A review of whether the external environment analysis proved to be the anticipated trajectory and what that means for any new strategy. The review will also determine if the Council had sufficient and appropriate information at the outset to determine the value and benefits of delivering the strategy overall and individual digital projects</b></li> <li>• <b>Feedback from internal and external stakeholders on the 2023-28 strategy and its delivery</b></li> <li>• <b>Analysis from the 2023-28 end of programme review and report. This will document how the programme has performed with regard to cost, benefits, risks, resources, and any barriers preventing successful delivery</b></li> <li>• <b>Review of the effectiveness of the 2023-28 governance arrangements to ensure they effectively supported delivery, including the timeliness of monitoring and reporting of progress to assess if emerging risks and issues were highlighted earlier enough for officers to deliver mitigating actions.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>The review will begin in 2027 and complete by 2028 in order to inform the new Digital Strategy from 2028 onwards. This timescale allows for the review and final approval of the new strategy through Cabinet.</b></p>	<p><b>Head of Digital &amp; Customer Services</b></p>

- d. review the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for its digital strategy to ensure they effectively support its delivery.

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Governance & Audit Committee – 17 January 2024

### Governance & Audit Committee Action Tracker Report

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report details the actions recorded by the Governance & Audit Committee and response to the actions.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jeremy Parkhouse
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 During the course of Governance & Audit Committee meetings various actions may be decided which are recorded on the minutes of the meetings.
- 1.2 As agreed in 2016/17 an Action Tracker process was put in place to ensure transparency over the outcomes of actions agreed by Committee.
- 1.3 The Action Tracker records the actions agreed by the Governance & Audit Committee and provides an outcome for each action.
- 1.4 The up to date Action Tracker 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The Action Tracker is regularly updated and any completed actions will be marked 'Completed' and coloured in grey.
- 1.6 The Action Tracker is reported to each Governance & Audit Committee meeting for information.

## **2. Integrated Assessment Implications**

2.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

2.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

2.2 There are no implications associated with this report.

## **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Governance & Audit Committee Action Tracker 2023/24 (Recently closed actions highlighted).

### Governance & Audit Committee - Action Tracker 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Minute Ref	Action	Nominated Officer(s)	Status / Timescale
06/12/23	62	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Work Plan</b>		
		<p>The Chair requested that training session(s) be arranged on the following areas: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance management framework;</li> <li>• Risk management;</li> <li>• Internal audit.</li> </ul>	Jeremy Parkhouse / Richard Rowlands / Simon Cockings	<b>Ongoing</b>
06/12/23	60	<b>Audit Wales Letter - Review of Council's Transformation Programme</b>		
		The Committee is updated early in the New Year regarding progress.	Ness Young	<b>Closed</b> Copies of Cabinet reports on the Corporate Transformation Programme will be provided to the Committee for information.
06/12/23	58	<b>Audit Wales Recommendations Tracker</b>		
		<p>The Chair welcomed the introduction of the tracker and highlighted its importance going forward. She queried if the action addressed the recommendation and if it was completed in relation to all Wales recommendations on the Audit Wales report on 'Together we can' – Community resilience and self-reliance. The Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager would review the information in the tracker.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair requested that the tracker report be provided to every other Committee meeting in future.</p>	Richard Rowlands / Jeremy Parkhouse	<b>Closed</b>  External Audit Tracker will be provided as a For Information report quarterly  Added to the 28/02/24 agenda.
06/12/23	57	<b>Corporate Risk Overview 2023/24 - Quarter 2</b>		
		The Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager would circulate the omitted information relating to Mandatory training, update the register prior to the next quarterly report and details of training.	Richard Rowlands	<b>Closed</b>
06/12/23	55	<b>Internal Audit Monitoring Report - Quarter 2 - 2023/24</b>		
		The Chair queried whether the effectiveness of the control measures on the risk register had been audited as part of the Corporate Governance audit. The Chief Auditor confirmed that he would respond regarding the review of corporate governance and would ensure the Chair received all audit reports finalised as requested.	Simon Cockings	<b>Ongoing</b> In 2024-25 the IAS will review the effectiveness of the council's risk management framework, policy and procedures.



06/12/23	54	<b>Finance Directorate: Internal Control Environment 2023/2024</b>		
		Changing the month the report is provided in future years.	Jeremy Parkhouse	<b>Closed</b> Added to the Work Plan for September 2024.
06/12/23	53	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2022/23</b>		
		Responses would be circulated in respect of the drop in gross income in specific areas and the increase in the balance of long term debtors at Note 17.	Ben Smith	<b>Closed</b> Response circulated to the Chair / Committee
25/10/23	47	Audit Wales stated that it planned to report on the Statement of Accounts in March 2024.	Audit Wales	<b>Ongoing</b>
25/10/23	46	<b>Report on the Audit Wales 'Together We Can' - Community Resilience and Self-Reliance Report Recommendations</b>		
		The Chair recognised the work already completed and the large amount of work outstanding, which could take time to complete. She requested that the Tackling Poverty Service Manager provides an update on the timelines at a future meeting.	Lee Cambule	<b>Ongoing</b>
25/10/23	45	<b>Report on the Audit Wales 'A Missed Opportunity' - Social Enterprises Report Recommendations</b>		
		The Chair recognised the work already completed and the large amount of work outstanding, which could take time to complete. She requested that the Tackling Poverty Service Manager provides an update on the timelines at a future meeting.	Lee Cambule	<b>Ongoing</b>
25/10/23	44	<b>The Governance and Assurance Arrangements of Swansea Council's Strategic Partnerships</b>		
		The Chair requested that future reports highlight the key challenges and achievements of the partnerships during the period being reported.	Richard Rowlands	<b>Ongoing</b>
25/10/23	43	<b>Public Services Ombudsman of Wales Annual Letter 2022-23</b>		
		The Chair requested that the Head of Digital & Customer Services circulates to the Committee details of 'various other' complaints dealt with by the Ombudsman.	Sarah Lackenby	<b>Ongoing</b>
25/10/23	38	<b>Absence Management Audit Report Update</b>		
		Ness Young, Director of Corporate Services highlighted that an update on the Council's Management Arrangements for Sickness Absence and Occupational Health was scheduled for Committee on 6 December 2023. The Chair noted that the report would therefore be moved to the meeting on 10 April 2024.	Rachael Davies	<b>Ongoing</b> Added to the agenda for 10 April 2023.
	38	The Head of Human Resources and Service Centre was requested to provide details of time lost due to accidents in the next update report.	Rachael Davies	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>25/10/23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Employment of Agency Staff - 2023 Update</b>		
		The Head of Human Resources and Service Centre was requested to provide details of agency workers who had been employed on permanent contracts by the Authority and the cost of employing agency workers in previous years.	Rachael Davies	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>13/09/23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Education Directorate: Internal Control Environment 2023/2024</b>		
		The Chair noted that the monitoring of the position at Clydach Primary School would be done by the Education Performance Scrutiny Panel and added that the Committee would gain assurance from their findings. She requested that it be added to the Action Tracker Report.	Education Performance Scrutiny Panel	<b>Ongoing</b> The Panel are meeting with the Acting Head and Chair of Governors on 22 February 2024.
<b>13/09/23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Internal Audit Recommendation Follow-Up Report Quarter 1 2023/24</b>		
<b>13/09/23</b>	<b>28</b>	The Committee also queried the reporting of all outstanding high / medium risks that had not been actioned in future in order for long term outstanding risks to be identified.	Nick Davies / Simon Cockings	<b>Ongoing</b> For consideration. This will require the interrogation of the audit system and ultimately, some additional man hours to see the required information can be extracted. Feasibility to be investigated.
<b>19/07/23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Internal Audit Section - Fraud Function Annual Report for 2022/2023</b>		
		The Corporate Fraud Manager stated that he would provide responses regarding / action the following: -  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide reasons for closure in future reports.</li> <li>• Provide examples of cases studies in future training sessions.</li> </ul>	Jonathon Rogers	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>14/06/23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Work Plan</b>		
		It was highlighted that there was not any training contained in the Work Plan. The Chair stated that future training was being considered. Training to be on understanding of general audit processes, understanding the terminology used and measuring criteria used.	Simon Cockings / Jeremy Parkhouse	<b>Closed</b> Duplicate with Minute No.62 – 06/12/23.
<b>14/06/23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
		The Chair thanked the officers for a detailed report and requested an update be provided in approximately 6 months.	Rachael Davies / Michelle Davies	<b>Closed</b> Included on agenda for 17 January 2024.

08/03/23	105	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Action Tracker Report</b>		
		<p>The Chair highlighted the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minute 90 (08/02/2023) – Audit Wales Reports – Readiness of the Public Sector for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 – Councillor A S Lewis (Deputy Leader of the Council) had updated the Climate Change and Nature Performance Panel regarding progress and would provide the Committee with a briefing note in order to provide assurance.</li> </ul>	<p>Councillor Andrea Lewis / Geoff Bacon</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> Audit Wales have rightly identified the need for all public bodies to develop costed plans to meet political aspirations and legal obligations. It remains relatively early days and at this stage it is not realistic to have a fully costed plan that's aligned to the MTFP and beyond. The costed plan doesn't and couldn't align with a 4-year MTFP as the programme will develop and continues up until 2030.</p> <p>As yet there has been no statement from WG concerning additional funding. The council recognises its obligations and the expectations placed upon it and the wider public sector and will continue to develop its own methodology and share and learn best practice with others to try and ensure comparability and consistency where possible. Conversations are ongoing with Welsh Government Energy Services as to how an action plan can be refined and properly delivered which strikes a pragmatic balance between the realistic and affordable at a truly local, council wide level and what will require regional, national and international joint working and very substantial additional funding support . A future draft/interim report will follow when completed.</p> <p>A report on Swansea Council NZ30 emissions (22-23) due at Cabinet imminently and Welsh Government are continuing to develop standardised frameworks to assist public body reporting.</p>

# Agenda Item 8



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Governance & Audit Committee – 17 January 2024

### Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report details the Governance & Audit Committee Work Plans to May 2024.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jeremy Parkhouse
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan to May 2024 in Terms of Reference Order is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Additional Work programme Governance and Audit Committee as a result of the Local Government and Elections Act is attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2023/24 report is attached at Appendix 3.
- 1.4 The Scrutiny & Monitoring of External Audit / Inspection / Regulatory (AIR) Reports (2023/24) is attached at Appendix 4.
- 1.5 The updated Governance & Audit Committee Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix 5.
- 1.6 The dates included for the meetings in 2023/24 were approved at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18 May 2023.

## **2. Integrated Assessment Implications**

2.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

2.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

2.2 There are no impact assessment implications associated with this report.

## **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 - Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan to May 2024 in Terms of Reference Order.
- Appendix 2 - Additional Work Programme - Governance and Audit Committee as a result of the Local Government and Elections Act.
- Appendix 3 - Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2023/24
- Appendix 4 - Scrutiny & Monitoring of External Audit / Inspection / Regulatory (AIR) Reports (2023/24).
- Appendix 5 - Governance & Audit Committee Terms of Reference.

Governance & Audit Committee Workplan 2023/24

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference	14 June 2023	19 July 2023	13 September 2023	25 October 2023	6 December 2023	17 January 2024	28 February 2024	10 April 2024	June 2024 (24/25)
<b>Training</b>									
<b>Governance &amp; Assurance</b>	Election of Chair & Vice Chair  Appointment of Committee Member on Annual Governance Group	Complaints Update Report 2022/23		Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23.  The Governance and Assurance Arrangements of Swansea Council's Strategic Partnerships – 6 Month Update  Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual letter to the Council for the period 2022-23			Update on the Council's Transformation Programme, including Governance  Annual Complaints Report	Draft Committee Work Programme 2024/25  Update on the Council's management arrangements for sickness absence and occupational health	Annual Governance Statement 2023/24  Draft Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24  Election of Chair & Vice Chair  Appointment of Committee Member on Annual Governance Group
<b>Internal Audit</b>	IA Quarter 4 2022/23 Monitoring Report  IA Quarter 4 2022/23 Recommendation Tracker Report  Fleet Maintenance Update  Accounts Receivable Update  DBS Update	Annual Report of School Audits 2022-23	IA Quarter 1 2023/24 Monitoring Report  Moderate Report - Catering and Cleaning Team 23/24  IA Quarter 1 2023/24 Recommendation Tracking Report	Employment of Agency Staff Update  Management of Absence Update  Moderate Report – Clydach Primary School  External Assessment Report 2023/24.	IA Quarter 2 2023/24 Monitoring Report	Accounts Receivable Update  Fundamental Audits 2022/23 – Rec Tracker Report	IA Quarter 3 2023/24 Monitoring Report  IA Quarter 3 2023/24 Recommendation Tracker Report  IA Annual Plan Methodology Report 2024/25  Draft IA Annual Plan 2024/25	IA Charter 2024/25  IA Strategy & Annual Plan 2024/25  Employment of Agency Staff Update  Management of Absence Update	Internal Audit Annual Report 2023/24
<b>Risk Management &amp; Performance</b>			Q1 Risk Monitoring Report  The Annual Review of Performance 2022-23 (including Self-Assessment Report)		Q2 Risk Monitoring Report		Q3 Risk Monitoring Report  Risk Management Review (Verbal)		Q4 Risk Monitoring Report

Governance & Audit Committee Workplan 2023/24

Appendix 1

<b>Counter Fraud</b>		Corporate Fraud Annual Report 2022/23 and Corporate Fraud Annual Plan 2023/24			Corporate Fraud – Six Month Update				
<b>Operational matters / key risks</b>			Update on Internal Control Environment – Director of Education	Update on Internal Control Environment - Director of Social Services	Update on Internal Control Environment - Director of Finance		Update on Internal Control Environment – Director of Place	Update on Internal Control Environment – Director of Corporate Services	
<b>External Audit</b>	Audit Wales Report - City & County of Swansea Annual Audit Summary	Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – City and County of Swansea Council.		Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – City and County of Swansea Council.  Audit Wales – 2023 Audit Plan  'A Missed Opportunity' - Social Enterprises.  'Together we can' - Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – City and County of Swansea Council.  Setting of well-being objectives – City and County of Swansea Council  Audit Wales Letter – Review of the Council's Transformation Programme  External Audit Recommendations.	Audit Wales - Audit of the Council's Digital Strategy 2023-28	Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – City and County of Swansea Council.  External Audit Tracker Report	Audit Wales - Assurance and Risk Assessment - Financial Position Update  Audit Wales Report - City & County of Swansea Annual Audit Summary  Update on the Council's response to the Audit Wales 2023 Report on Social Enterprises  Audit Wales - Audit of Accounts Report - City & County of Swansea - Draft.	Audit Wales - 2024 Audit Plan  Update on the Council's response to the Audit Wales 2023 Report on Community Reliance and Self Reliance  External Audit Tracker Report
<b>Financial Reporting</b>					Draft Statement of Accounts 2022/23				



**Additional Work programme Governance and Audit Committee**  
**As a result of the Local Government And Elections Act.**

Across all areas of the work programme, consideration and acknowledgement will be given to the views, feedback and assurance from the scrutiny and performance committees that robust overview and scrutiny has taken place of decisions, policies and proposals and the assurance then given to Audit committee when they are reviewing the area of work in relation to Assurance, risk environment, Regulatory compliance and overall governance.

Area of work	Owner	Frequency  <i>The frequencies are a guide and additional reviews may take place as and when the committee feel necessary.</i>	Month to present to committee
To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework	Ness Young / Richard Rowlands	Every 2 years	See Annual Governance Statement
To review the Council's draft annual Self-Assessment Report,	Richard Rowlands	Annual	September
To review the Council's draft response to the Panel Performance Assessment Report	Richard Rowlands	Once every 4 years	TBC
To review the Council's draft response to any Auditor General's recommendations arising from a special inspection in respect of the Council's performance requirements	Ness Young	As and When required	TBC
To review the programme of work from regulators	Richard Rowlands	Annually	Quarterly

## Appendix 2

To review and assess the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively	Sarah Lackenby	Annual	January
To review the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval	Richard Rowlands	Annual	May
To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.	Richard Rowlands / Ness Young	Annual	Possibly covered to a degree in the self-assessment report but too early to say.
To consider the Council's framework of assurance	Richard Rowlands / Ness Young	Annual	See Internal Audit Assurance Map
To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management	Richard Rowlands	Each meeting	Quarterly Overview of Risk Reports
To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions	Simon Cockings	As and when required	Quarterly Monitoring Reports throughout the year.
To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption	Simon Cockings	Every 6 months	Fraud Function Annual Plan – March  Fraud Function Annual Report – July  Fraud Function Half-Year Update Report - December
To monitor the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources	Simon Cockings	Every 6 Months	Fraud Function Annual Plan – March  Fraud Function Annual Report – July

## Appendix 2

			Fraud Function Half-Year Update Report - December
To Receive proposals in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations	Simon Cockings	as and when	n/a
To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations	Director of Corporate Services / Richard Rowlands / Relevant Director	Annual / as and when new Partnerships or collaborations are established	June/July
To approve the internal audit charter and resources	Simon Cockings	Annual	Internal Audit Charter Report – April
To consider the Chief Internal Auditor’s annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Council’s corporate governance arrangements	Simon Cockings	Annual	Internal Audit Annual Report – May
To consider reports from the Chief Internal Auditor on Internal Audit’s performance during the year including the performance of external providers of internal audit services	Simon Cockings	Every 6 months	Quarterly Monitoring Reports throughout the year.
To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the Annual Governance Statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations	Simon Cockings	Annual	Internal Audit Annual Report – June

## Appendix 2

To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Chief Internal Auditor. <b>To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments</b>	Simon Cockings	Annual	Internal Audit Charter Report – April
To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Chief Internal Auditor has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions	Simon Cockings	As and when	Quarterly Monitoring Reports throughout the year.
To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal audit services	Simon Cockings	As and when required	Quarterly Monitoring Reports throughout the year.
To consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.	Simon Cockings	Quarterly	Quarterly Monitoring Reports throughout the year.
To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five year	Simon Cockings	Every 5 Years	Internal Audit Annual Report – May
To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and to those charged with governance.	Ben Smith	Annual	External Auditor's annual letter – July

## Appendix 2

To review the annual statement of accounts.	Ben Smith	Annual	Report of S151 officer including Statement of Accounts – December
To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts	Ben Smith	Annual	External Audit Annual Report - July
To publish an annual report on the work of the committee.	Paula O'Connor	Annual	Draft Audit Committee Annual Report – June

## Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2023/24

ACTIVITY	18 Jul 2023	19 Sep 2023	17 Oct 2023	14 Nov 2023	19 Dec 2023	16 Jan 2024
<b>Scrutiny Work Programme</b>	Agreement of Scrutiny Work Programme	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23				
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q &amp; A Sessions</b>		Active Travel (CM for Environment & Infrastructure)			Support for Business (CM for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism)	Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy
<b>Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports</b>  Page 76			Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB Chair – Cllr Andrea Lewis)	- Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (CM for Care Services / Director of Social Services) - Children & Young People's Rights Scheme (annual report) (CM for Community – Support)	Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty (annual item) (Leader / CM for Wellbeing)	
<b>Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports</b>			Education	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance	Adult Services	Child & Family Services
<b>Pre-decision Scrutiny</b>	FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project		Oracle Fusion Project Implementation / Project Closure Report (Leader / CM for Service Transformation)			
<b>Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.</b>				- Follow Up on Bus Services Working Group (CM for Environment & Infrastructure) - Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry Final Report		Follow Up on Road Safety Working Group (CM for Environ. & Infrastructure)

ACTIVITY	13 Feb 2024	19 Mar 2024	16 Apr 2024	14 May 2024		
<b>Scrutiny Work Programme</b>				End of Year Review		
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q &amp; A Sessions</b>	Delivery against Workforce Development Strategy (CM for Corporate Services & Performance)					
<b>Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports</b>		- Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB Chair – Cllr Andrea Lewis) - Annual Complaints Report 2022-23 (CM for Service Transformation / CM for Care Services)	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership (Joint Chairs of Safer Swansea Partnership)			
<b>Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports</b>	Climate Change & Nature	Education	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance			
<b>Pre-decision Scrutiny</b>						
<b>Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.</b>				Follow Up on Co-production Working Group (CM for Community - Support)		

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To be scheduled:

- Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee
- Welsh Language Standards (annual report) (CMs for Education & Learning / Culture, Human Rights & Equalities)

## Scrutiny & Monitoring of External Audit / Inspection / Regulatory Reports (2023/24)

The Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee and Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee decide between them the route that specific reports should take, i.e., whether reported to and monitored by G & A Committee or SPC, as deemed appropriate.

External reports that are relevant for Scrutiny are allocated either to the Scrutiny Programme Committee or referred to relevant Scrutiny Performance Panels and scheduled for discussion, as appropriate.

When a report has been issued to the Council and is available for Scrutiny, the relevant Scrutiny Chair / Convener is made aware, and it can be highlighted to Committee / Panel members within the next available meeting agenda.

Reporting to Scrutiny will typically require relevant Cabinet Members / Officers to attend meetings to discuss implications and present action plans along with statements about progress. Scrutiny Officers will engage with relevant Cabinet Members / Officers to forward plan the scheduling of Committee / Panel discussion at the right time, e.g., with a response / action plan (showing any progress to date), making the best use of time given pressure on scrutiny work plans / workloads.

The Committee / Panel can then receive assurance from Council leads about their response to any external reports and provide challenge to ensure improvement, making observations, and arranging further monitoring as necessary.

Depending on content, every report may not require the same level of involvement and consideration (given degree of importance or interest) therefore it will be up to relevant scrutiny lead member(s) to determine best approach in dealing with relevant reports. In certain cases, the Committee / Panel may take an exceptional approach to reports, e.g., being provided with information outside of meetings and only scheduling for discussion at a meeting with relevant Cabinet Member / Officer where there are specific issues, concerns about action / progress. Flexible approaches will relieve pressure on workloads and ensure best use of time and resources.

The Governance & Audit Committee is provided with a log of reports being dealt with by Scrutiny so that it can maintain an oversight of monitoring and be assured that reports are being effectively followed up.



## Appendix 4

Report Title	Type of Report	Lead Cabinet Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee / Performance Panel	Report(s) to Scrutiny	Monitoring by Scrutiny Complete (YES / NO?)
<a href="#"><u>A report on education services in City and County of Swansea</u></a> (September 2022)	Estyn	Education & Learning	Education Panel	<a href="#"><u>27 October 2022</u></a> <a href="#"><u>15 December 2022</u></a> <a href="#"><u>15 June 2023</u></a> <a href="#"><u>14 December 2023</u></a>	NO Further monitoring scheduled for Dec 2024
<a href="#"><u>'Time for Change' – Poverty in Wales</u></a> (November 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Economy, Finance & Strategy AND Well-being	Scrutiny Programme Committee	<a href="#"><u>17 January 2023</u></a> <a href="#"><u>19 December 2023</u></a>	YES Tackling Poverty is an annual item at Committee
<a href="#"><u>'A missed opportunity' – Social Enterprises</u></a> (November 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Care Services	Adult Services Panel	<a href="#"><u>5 September 2023</u></a>	NO Discussion on Action Plan / progress to be arranged – likely Mar 2024
<a href="#"><u>'Together We Can' – Community Resilience and Self-Reliance</u></a> (January 2023)	Audit Wales (National)	Community (Support)	Adult Services Panel	<a href="#"><u>7 August 2023</u></a>	YES
<a href="#"><u>Rose Cross Residential Care Home Inspection</u></a> (May 2023)	CIW	Care Services	Adult Services Panel	<a href="#"><u>28 June 2023</u></a>	YES
<a href="#"><u>Ty Waunarwydd Home For The Elderly Inspection</u></a> (June 2023)	CIW	Care Services	Adult Services Panel	<a href="#"><u>28 June 2023</u></a>	YES

## Appendix 4

<a href="#">Setting of Wellbeing Objectives</a> (August 2023)	Audit Wales (National)	Corporate Services & Performance	Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance	<a href="#">17 October 2023</a>	YES
<a href="#">Digital Strategy Review</a> (November 2023)	Audit Wales (National)	Service Transformation	Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance	<a href="#">12 December 2023</a>	YES
Building Safety in Wales	Building Control Wales	Corporate Services & Performance	Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance	12 March 2024	
Use of Performance Information	Audit Wales (National)	Corporate Services & Performance	Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance	9 April 2024	

### NOTE:

Estyn: All individual School Estyn Inspection outcome summaries and links to full reports are included in Education Scrutiny Performance Panel agendas for information / awareness. The Panel will follow up on any where there are concerns and some when good practice has been highlighted.

## **Governance & Audit Committee – Terms of Reference**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of the City and County of Swansea's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of the Governance and Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the performance assessment of the Council. It provides an independent review of the governance, performance assessment, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

### **Membership**

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provides that two thirds of the members of the Committee are to be members of the council and one third must be lay members. Only one member of the Cabinet or Assistant to the Cabinet may sit on the Committee, and that person must not be the Leader. The Chair must be a lay member and the vice chair must not be a member of the Cabinet or an Assistant to the Cabinet.

### **Governance, Performance, Risk and Control**

- a) To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider annual governance reports and assurances.
- b) To review the Council's draft annual Self-Assessment Report, and make any appropriate recommendations for changes to the conclusions or actions the Council intends to make.
- c) To review the Council's draft response to the Panel Performance Assessment Report, and make any appropriate recommendations for changes.
- d) To review the Council's draft response to any Auditor General's recommendations arising from a special inspection in respect of the Council's performance requirements and to make any appropriate recommendations for changes.
- e) To review and assess the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively and to make any associated reports and

recommendations in relation to the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively.

- f) To review the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances.
- g) To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- h) To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the council.
- i) To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council.
- j) To monitor progress in addressing risk related issues reported to the Committee.
- k) To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- l) To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption.
- m) To monitor the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources.
- n) To review any proposals in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
- o) To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

#### **Internal Audit**

- p) To approve the internal audit charter and resources.
- q) To approve the risk-based internal audit plan, containing internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurances and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
- r) To approve significant interim changes to the risk based internal audit plan and resource requirements.

- s) To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Chief Internal Auditor to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- t) To consider the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance arrangements.
- u) To consider the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report.
- v) To consider reports from the Chief Internal Auditor on Internal Audit's performance during the year including the performance of external providers of internal audit services.
- w) To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the Annual Governance Statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- x) To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Chief Internal Auditor. To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.
- y) To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
- z) To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Chief Internal Auditor has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
- aa) To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal audit services.
- bb) To consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.
- cc) To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- dd) To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.

- ee) To provide free and unfettered access to the Governance and Audit Committee Chair for the Chief Internal Auditor, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee.

### **External Audit**

- ff) To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and to those charged with governance.
- gg) To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- hh) To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- ii) To commission work from external audit.
- jj) To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external audit and other inspector agencies or relevant bodies

### **Financial Reporting**

- kk) To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.
- ll) To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

### **Accountability Arrangements**

- mm) To report to full Council on a regular basis on the Committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose.
- nn) To report to Council on an annual basis and to publish an annual report on the Committee's work, its performance in relation to the Terms of Reference, and its effectiveness in meeting its purpose.
- oo) To raise the profile of probity generally within the Council and to report on matters of concern to the individual Cabinet Member, relevant Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet or to Council as necessary and appropriate.
- pp) To work in synergy with the Scrutiny Committees of the Council and liaise with other Council Committees as and when appropriate to avoid duplication in work programmes.

- qq) To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the Appendix 1 adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions
- rr) To publish an annual report on the work of the committee.

**Training and Development**

- ss) To attend relevant training sessions including specialist training tailored for Members of the Governance and Audit Committee.