



Report of the Chief Auditor

Audit Committee – 12 June 2018

Audit Committee - Performance Review 2016/17 Update

Purpose:	This report provides an update following the Audit Committee Performance Review 2016/17.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Committee discuss the update on the key findings of the 2016/17 performance review and consider any relevant points as part of the 2017/18 performance review.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Committee's annual performance review for 2016/17 was facilitated by the Wales Audit Office in February 2017.
- 1.2 Overall, the outcome of the Performance Review was that the Audit Committee felt that it is performing well against the Core Principles. However, some areas for improvement were noted in relation to Committee involvement and awareness of Risk Management. It was also felt that there were a number of issues which could be addressed during the year which would allow the Committee to provide a greater level of assurance to the Council.

1.3 Committee were provided with an update report in November 2017 outlining the progress that had been made to date against the key findings of the performance review. The update included a number of proposals aimed at further developing the Committee in line with the findings of the review. Unfortunately, as a result of the then Chair of the Committee giving notice of his intention to resign from post, the proposals and key findings were not progressed any further as the Chair wasn't in attendance at any further meetings.

1.4 A new Chair was appointed in March 2018 and it is envisaged that any relevant key findings outstanding will be considered as part of the forthcoming performance review for 2017/18.

1.5 A summary of the key findings arising from the 2016/17 performance review can be found in Appendix 1, together with a brief narrative to update committee as to the actions that have been taken to date.

2. Equality and Engagement Implications

2.1 There are no equality and engagement 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

Appendix 1 – Performance Review 2016/17 – Key Findings

PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2016/17 - KEY FINDINGS UPDATE

Key Finding	Progress to Date
1. Risk Management - provide more detailed information (Risk Register) to Audit Committee	In order to provide more information to Committee, periodic updates from the Business Performance Manager have been added to the Committee Workplan. Committee has also received Risk Management Training as well as an overview of the updated Risk Management Policy and Framework. Committee members have also been granted access to the Corporate Risk Register.
2. Risk Management – develop ‘what if’ scenarios	
3. Other regulators – see the work of other regulators at the Council (CSSIW, Estyn, PSoW)	As reported to Committee in November 2017 it is envisaged that the periodic updates from the Business Performance Manager will include information covering these areas.
4. Tracking of recommendations – central place for all recommendations	Not progressed – to be discussed as part of the 2017/18 performance review if still considered to be relevant.
5. Tracking of recommendations – look at timescales – is 12 months too long?	
6. Meeting with the Audit Committee in private – should all members of Audit Committee meet with WAO rather than just the Chair?	
7. Good Practice – look at other bodies e.g. Police, NHS	The proposal for committee member to consider attendance at other bodies Audit Committee meetings to identify any best practices that may be adopted was included in the update report presented to Committee in November 2017. A proposal was also put forward for discussion in relation to inviting contacts from other bodies Audit Committees to attend meetings to provide feedback. These proposals were not progressed.
8. Good Practice – WAO to signpost good examples	The proposal for Wales Audit Office to suggest any best practice identified from work with other Audit Committees was included in the update report presented to Committee in November 2017. However, this was not progressed.
9. Development of Audit Committee – look at other Audit Committee’s to benchmark and for good practice	As per the update for key finding number 7.
10. Development of Audit Committee – train with members of other Audit Committee’s	As per the update for key finding number 7.
11. Attendance – improve attendance from Members and Officers	Not progressed – to be discussed as part of the 2017/18 performance review if still considered to be relevant.