



## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Council – 29 July 2021

# Amendments to the Council Constitution - Updated Terms of Reference for the Governance and Audit Committee

<b>Purpose:</b>	The report presents an update to the Group regarding changes to the Governance & Audit Committee Terms of Reference as a result of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the CIPFA Guide – Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018 Ed) .
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Access to Services, Constitution Working Group.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Council approves the amended terms of reference for the Governance and Audit Committee.
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 became law in January 2021. It is an extensive piece of complex legislation of 189 pages 10 Parts and 170 sections. In addition there are complex commencement provisions which means that some parts of the legislation came into force immediately, others 2 months following Royal Assent and some in May 2022.

- 1.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the professional body for people in public finance. CIPFA champion high performance in public services, translating sector experience and insight into clear advice and practical guidance and sets the benchmark for sound public financial management and good governance. In 2018 CIPFA Published; The Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police document, which represents best practice for audit committees in local authorities throughout the UK.

## **2. Governance and Audit Committee**

- 2.1 An update to the terms of reference was presented to Governance and Audit committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on changes to the remit and the committee name as a result of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act.
- 2.2 This report adds to those previous changes, taking account of best practice and the recommendations within the CIPFA Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police 2018 Edition.
- 2.3 The highlighted changes can be seen within Appendix 1.

## **3. Approvals**

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit committee reviewed the terms of reference on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and approved the amendments and recommends the changes to the Constitutional Working Group for the group to review, accept and to recommend them for adoption by Full Council.

## **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) 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 Act.
  - 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
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 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'.

Our Integrated Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.3 There are no integrated assessment implications associated with this report.

**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:**

Audit Committee 9 March 2021 Item 10 - Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Audit Committee 18 May 2021 Item 4 - Updated Terms of Reference for the Governance and Audit Committee.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Amended Terms of Reference (including tracked changes)