



Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Governance & Audit Committee – 4 September 2024

Governance & Audit Committee Action Tracker Report

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

For Information

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 previously agreed, 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 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The Action Tracker is regularly updated and any completed actions are marked 'Closed' 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 2024/25 (Recently closed actions highlighted).

Governance & Audit Committee - Action Tracker 2024/2025

Date of Meeting	Minute Ref	Action	Nominated Officer(s)	Status / Timescale
17/07/24	22	Draft Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24		
		The Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023-2024 be agreed and forwarded to Council for approval.	Chair / Simon Cockings / Jeremy Parkhouse	Closed Report included on Council agenda for 05/09/24.
17/07/24	21	Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/24		
		1) The Annual Governance Statement be agreed, subject to the amendments highlighted by the Committee being added. 2) The report be forwarded to Council for approval as part of the Statement of Accounts.	Ben Smith	Ongoing
17/07/24	20	Internal Audit Review of the Accounts Receivable Function		
		Chief Internal Auditor to consider giving more outcome focussed Internal Audit recommendations in future to avoid 'tick-box' results.	Simon Cockings	Closed More outcome focussed recommendations will be made in future.
05/06/24	7	Audit Report on Waivers 2023/24		
		An update report be provided to a future meeting on the contract management framework discussed.	Chris Williams	Ongoing Scheduled for January 2025.
10/04/24	91	Absence Management & Employment of Agency Workers Audits - Update Report		
		It was confirmed that an update report would be provided later in the year.	Rachael Davies	Ongoing An update has been scheduled for 16/10/24.
25/10/23	46	Report on the Audit Wales 'Together We Can' - Community Resilience and Self-Reliance Report Recommendations		
		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	Closed Included on agenda for 04/09/24.
25/10/23	45	Report on the Audit Wales 'A Missed Opportunity' - Social Enterprises Report Recommendations		
		The Chair recognised the work already completed and the large amount of work outstanding, which could take time to complete. She	Lee Cambule	Closed Included on agenda for 04/09/24.

		requested that the Tackling Poverty Service Manager provides an update on the timelines at a future meeting.		
25/10/23	44	The Governance and Assurance Arrangements of Swansea Council's Strategic Partnerships		
		The Chair requested that future reports highlight the key challenges and achievements of the partnerships during the period being reported.	Richard Rowlands	Ongoing Scheduled for 16/10/24.
19/07/23	19	Internal Audit Section - Fraud Function Annual Report for 2022/2023		
		The Corporate Fraud Manager stated that he would provide responses regarding / action the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide reasons for closure in future reports. • Provide examples of case studies in future training sessions. 	Jonathon Rogers	Closed Report included on agenda for 04/09/2024 and training provided on 02/09/24.
08/03/23	105	Governance & Audit Committee Action Tracker Report		
		The Chair highlighted the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Councillor Andrea Lewis / Geoff Bacon	Ongoing 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. 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

			<p>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>Welsh Government are continuing to develop standardised frameworks to assist public body reporting.</p>
--	--	--	--