



Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Governance & Audit Committee – 27 September 2022

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 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 (Closed actions removed).
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Governance & Audit Committee - Action Tracker 2021/2022

Date of Meeting	Minute Ref	Action	Nominated Officer(s)	Status
13/07/22	33	Governance & Audit Committee – Work Plan 2022/23		
		The Chair added that the Scrutiny Programme Committee was scheduled to meet on 19 July 2022 and their work programme would be included with future Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan reports.	Brij Madahar / Jeremy Parkhouse	Closed Scrutiny Work Plan included in Work Plan report.
13/07/22	28	Workforce Strategy		
		Details of apprenticeships be circulated to the Committee.	Adrian Chard	Closed Details circulated.
13/07/22	26	Update Report South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee		
		Future CJC updates to be included within Partnership update reports.	Martin Nicholls / Jeremy Parkhouse	Closed Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan updated.
13/07/22	25	Annual Report of School Audits 2021-22		
		The Chair requested that the Director of Education updates the Committee regarding risk / assurance when she provides her annual report to Committee later in the year.	Helen Morgan-Rees	Closed Included within the report of the Director of Education on 14/09/2022.
31/05/22	7	Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22		
		The Annual Governance Statement be agreed and subject to the amendments highlighted by the Committee being added, be forwarded to Council for approval as part of the Statement of Accounts.	Ben Smith	Ongoing Statement of Accounts to be approved by Council. Closure of accounts formally deferred pending national developments on accounting code of practice and Audit Wales approach to all Councils (predominantly balance sheet valuation matters)
31/05/22	6	Draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22		
		The amendments and comments of the Committee were noted. The Draft Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 would be forwarded to Council for approval.	Simon Cockings / Chair / Jeremy Parkhouse	Ongoing Report approved by Council on 06/10/2022.

12/04/22	93	Audit Wales Report – City & County of Swansea Annual Audit Summary 2021		
		The Committee requested that an update be provided regarding the current position of discussions. He added that a joint Council & AW note would be circulated to the Committee regarding progress made.	Ben Smith	Ongoing Historic debt delisting from stock exchange achieved in full during 21-22. Detailed work continued during 21-22 with AW locally re historic valuation of assets and reserve split. Position now signed off by AW technical team and considered by S151 evidenced to be not material for 21-22 and thus should fully resolve immediate ongoing qualification issue. Work to be progressed on wider historical tracking back on both sides. Emerging audit issue across all Councils over historic infrastructure asset valuations which raise new qualification risk, but this is a sector wide not Swansea specific risk.
		The Chair also requested an update regarding progress in respect of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) review and requested that the Director of Social Services updates the Committee regarding progress when presenting his annual update on internal Social Services Department controls.	Dave Howes	Ongoing Director's report added to the Work Plan for November 2022.
12/04/22	91	Internal Audit Strategy & Annual Plan 2022/23		
		A report on the Public Participation Strategy be added to the work plan for 2022/23.	Lee Wenham	Closed Report included on 14September 2022 agenda.
08/03/22	87	Governance & Audit Committee Work Plan		
		The Deputy Chief Executive added that the recent split of the former Resources Directorate into the Finance and Corporate Services Directorates meant that the updates on the control environment reports in respect of both departments would be provided during the next Municipal year.	Ness Young / Richard Rowlands	Ongoing Director's report added to the Work Plan for April 2023.
08/03/22	84	Absence Management Audit Report 20/21		
		Ben Smith, Director of Finance advised that the Service Centre would be expected to continue providing sickness absence data to the Committee when timing and resourcing allowed.	Sian Williams / Adrian Chard	Closed Report included on 14September 2022 agenda.

08/02/22	76	Place: Internal Control Environment 2021/22		
		The Chair referred to Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and requested additional information be provided in future reports surrounding both positive and negative results, particularly regarding high levels of sickness in Waste, Parks and Cleansing. She requested that assurance be provided regarding high sickness levels and the use of agency staff as cover.	Mark Wade	Ongoing Added to 2022/2023 Work Plan for February 2023. An additional dedicated Absence Management Resource is being trialled across the Place service areas. One of the early areas targeted was Waste, Parks and Cleansing where absence levels (excluding Covid) reduced from 5.65% to 5.51% over the four months of the trial. The additional resource has now been made permanent and is being rotated around the place service areas to ensure continued progress.
08/02/22	75	Corporate Risk Overview – Quarter 3 2021/22		
		The Chair requested that Internal Audit include the new Corporate Risk of WCCIS and the Availability of Domiciliary Care be investigated early in the 2022/23 Audit Plan.	Simon Cockings	Ongoing Non-residential care audit and WCCIS audit were already included on the draft 22/23 audit work plan. WCCIS audit is underway. Non-residential care audit has been allocated to commence as soon as resources allow. Peter Field, Principal Officer – Prevention, Wellbeing & Commissioning has agreed to prepare a briefing note outlining the situation with Domiciliary Care.
08/02/22	74	Internal Audit Recommendation Follow-Up Report - Quarter 3 2021/22		
		The Chair highlighted that a suitable solution in respect of External Audit Recommendation Tracking should be found as soon as possible in order for the Council to have a far better control of the situation.	Ness Young / Richard Rowlands	Ongoing A software solution will be rolled out during 2022/23.
12/01/22	67	Update Report South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee		
		The Chair highlighted the need to closely monitor the progress of the CJC and requested that regular summary progress updates be provided to the Committee.	Martin Nicholls / Jeremy Parkhouse	Closed Future reports to be added to the Work Plan. Added to the agenda for 13 July 2022.

09/11/21	52	Annual Report Corporate Safeguarding 2020-21		
		The Chair asked that Compliance of Safeguarding training be highlighted in the Risk Register.	Simon Jones / Ness Young	Ongoing A review of the current and future provision has been undertaken and assurance that Oracle Fusion will include reporting. CMT are currently considering the Corporate Risk. A manual data check of training compliance has recently been sent to all managers across the whole Council.
13/07/21	17	Audit Wales - Follow Up Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements - Children in Swansea Council		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future training provision for Councillor School Governors to be provided. 	Helen Morgan-Rees	Ongoing Update - Safeguarding training is provided for all Councillors (provided on 21/07/22 and scheduled for 08/09/22) as part of their induction and training programme which is managed by Democratic Services. The vast majority of Councillors are also school governors. The safeguarding training offer for governors includes the information provided in the Councillor training but also additional information specific to school contexts and the responsibility of governing bodies. This is a more detailed course with a requirement for all governors to undertake this training on a three yearly cycle. If a Councillor undertakes this training as a governor then it supersedes the Councillor training offer. However, if they have not undertaken governor training they should ensure they attend the training offered by Democratic Services. Councillors can also do both if they wish. The training for governors is monitored by the Education Directorate and records provided to Democratic Services as needed.