

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018-19

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Action Plan that accompanied the final Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2018-19 in the Statement of Accounts 2018-19.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority:

- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

2.2 Achievement of the corporate priorities and well-being objectives defined in the Corporate Plan is underpinned by ensuring that effective governance arrangements are in place.

3. Background

3.1 Regulation 5 (2) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 requires an authority to undertake, as part of its arrangements for corporate governance, an annual review of governance and report on internal control.

3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 was presented to Audit Committee on 13 June 2019 and was subsequently included within the Final Statement of Accounts 2018-19 that was approved by Audit committee on 8 August 2019.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Good corporate governance requires the active participation of Members and Officers across the Council. These arrangements are reviewed on an annual basis and the findings used to update the AGS. This helps to ensure the continuous improvement of the Council's corporate governance culture.

4.2 The AGS provides an overall assessment of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and an appraisal of the controls in place to manage the Council's key risks and identifies where improvements need to be made. Since the report was presented separately to Audit Committee in June 2019 it has been amended to

update on the outcome of the Estyn Inspection. The revised AGS 2018-19 is attached at **Appendix A** with the amendment on page 9.

- 4.3 In order to begin the process for producing the Annual Governance Statement 2019-20, it is necessary to review the Action Plan that was linked to the AGS 2018-19. **Appendix B** shows the Plan which has been updated with progress on each significant governance issue.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The report does not have any impacts on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act have been considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee:
- Note the amended Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 (Appendix A)
 - Consider the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 Action Plan (Appendix B).

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Background documents

Report to Audit Committee 13 June 2019: Annual Governance Statement 2018-19

Statement of Accounts 2018-19