

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

16 JULY 2020

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

AUDIT WALES AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit an update on the Financial and Performance Audit work undertaken, and due to be undertaken, by Audit Wales, during 2019-20 and 2020-21.

2 Connections to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

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

- 2.2 The Council's performance is an important element in determining the extent to which the well-being objectives can be delivered.

3 Background

- 3.1 This programme of work is undertaken to help the Auditor General discharge his duties under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. It may also inform a study for improving value for money under section 41 of the 2004 Act, and/or an examination undertaken by the Auditor General under section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 also requires the Auditor General to carry out an annual Improvement Assessment to determine whether Bridgend County Borough Council is likely to comply with the requirements of Part 1 of the Measure. This involves:

- A review of the Council's arrangements to secure continuous improvement;
- Improvement studies of areas which may hinder improvement or transformation or give rise to inefficiencies;
- Bespoke pieces of work related to the Council's improvement objectives and arrangements; and
- An audit of the Council's published improvement plans and its self-assessment of performance.

4 Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The Audit Wales Audit Committee Update is attached as **APPENDIX A**. It outlines both financial and performance work undertaken in the Council by and on behalf of the Auditor General under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

5 Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Policy framework and Procedure rules.

6 Equality Impact Assessment.

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

7 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

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

8 Financial implications.

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9 Recommendation.

- 9.1 That members note the Audit Wales Audit Committee Update at Appendix A.

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Background Documents: None