

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER 2020

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

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

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), included in the Statement of Accounts 2019-20, and the significant issues arising as a result of a review of the AGS for 2020-21 for consideration.

2. Connection 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**:-

1. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

- 2.2 Effective governance arrangements underpin the delivery of the well-being objectives defined in the Corporate Plan.

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 2019-20 was presented to Audit Committee on 16 July 2020 and was subsequently included within the final Statement of Accounts 2019-20, which was approved by Audit Committee on 10 September 2020.

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. The final AGS 2019-20 is attached at **Appendix A**.

4.3 In order to begin the process for producing the AGS 2020-21, it is necessary to review the Action Plan that was linked to the AGS 2019-20, and this is included at **Appendix B** together with an update on progress against each significant governance issue.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The report does not have any impacts on policy framework or 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 well-being 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. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- note the final Annual Governance Statement 2019-20 (**Appendix A**)
- consider the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 Action Plan (**Appendix B**)

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November 2020

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Background documents: None

Report to Audit Committee 16 July 2020: Annual Governance Statement 2019-20
Statement of Accounts 2019-20