

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2021

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

HALF YEAR REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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 2020-21, and the significant issues arising as a result of a re-view of the AGS for 2021-22.

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/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **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 2020-21 was presented to Governance and Audit Committee on 18 June 2021 and was subsequently included within the final Statement of Accounts 2020-21, which was approved by Governance and Audit Committee on 22 July 2021.

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 2020-21 is attached at **Appendix A**.

4.3 Local authorities are required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year. A review of the Action Plan for the year provides a basis for reviewing progress against each significant governance issue identified. The action plan 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 impact on policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of 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 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. Recommendation(s)

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- consider the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 Action Plan and progress on the actions to 30 September 2021.

Gill Lewis CPFA
Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
November 2021

Contact officer: Nigel Smith
Interim Group Manager – Chief Accountant

Telephone: (01656) 643605

Email: nigel.smith@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend CBC
CF31 4AP

Background documents:

None