

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

REVIEW ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013-14

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the Action Plan that accompanied the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2013-14.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 Achievement of the aims and objectives in the Corporate Plan is underpinned by ensuring that effective governance arrangements are in place.

3. Background

- 3.1 Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulation 2005 introduced a requirement for the Authority to be explicitly responsible, as part of its arrangements for corporate governance, for annually reviewing and reporting on internal control.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2013-14 was presented to Audit Committee on 18 June 2014 and was subsequently included within the Final Statement of Accounts 2013-14 that was approved by Audit committee on 25 September 2014.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

CIPFA/SOLACE Governance Framework Core Principles

- 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 Annual Governance Statement. This helps to ensure the continuous improvement of the Council's corporate governance culture.
- 4.2 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 AGS 2013-14 has been amended to correct an error regarding the allocation of Members' Portfolios. The revised AGS 2013-14 is attached at **Appendix A** with the amendment at paragraph 5.1.
- 4.3 In order to begin the process for producing the Annual Governance Statement 2014-15, it is necessary to review the Action Plan that was linked to the AGS 2013-14. **Appendix B** shows the Plan which has been updated with progress on each significant governance issue.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedural rules

None

6. Equality Impact Assessment

None

7. Financial implications

None

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee:

- Note the amended Annual Governance Statement 2013-14 (Appendix A)
- Consider the Annual Governance Statement 2013-14 Action Plan (Appendix B)

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Corporate Director Resources
20 October 2014**

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Background Papers: Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 CIPFA/SOLACE:
Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Framework
CIPFA/SOLACE: Application Note to Delivering Good Governance
in Local Government: A Framework