

APPENDIX B

Annual Governance Statement – half year review of progress against significant issues identified during 2021-22, to be addressed in 2022-23

Issue	Governance Principle	What the issue is	Proposed Actions to address issue	Responsible Officer	6 month progress update 30/09/2022
Self-Assessment	F	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires a local authority to demonstrate that it is keeping under review the extent to which it is fulfilling the 'performance requirements' of the Act, including consulting and reporting on performance annually.	The requirement to introduce a comprehensive 'self-assessment' of the Council's performance is progressing satisfactorily. The first Corporate Performance reporting and meeting of 2022/23, reflecting on quarter 4 performance of 2021/22, introduced self-assessment across all Directorates on Key question one, 'performance and outcomes'. It is anticipated that the process will evolve and continue to improve, additionally focussing on key question 2, 'use of resources', and also utilising the Annual Governance Statement to demonstrate effective reporting and assessment of governance. A series of workshops are planned in June and July 2022 to progress this, with the aim of reporting comprehensively on the Council's performance based on a process of consistent self-assessment, in September 2022.	Kelly Watson/ Mark Shephard	This work has progressed as planned. The workshops were well attended and the feedback was incorporated into the self assessment report. This was scheduled to be reported to Council in September 2022 but was delayed due to the national period of mourning. It will be considered by Council in October 2022

Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs)	A	To ensure the Council's interests are safeguarded through the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees, which will assume responsibility for economic well-being, transport and strategic planning.	The interim arrangements to establish a Corporate Joint Committee [CJC] for these areas of service has been progressed by the Cardiff Capital Region and reported to Cabinet .	Kelly Watson/ Laura Griffiths	An update report was presented to Council on 18 January 2022. The Cardiff Capital Regional Cabinet approved the transfer of its existing functions, which are principally in respect of the City Deal agreement to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 28 February 2022.
Financial Sustainability	F	The ongoing financial pressure from the pandemic, the exit from the European union and the current conflict in Ukraine, leading to unanticipated inflationary increases and a cost of living crisis for residents.	Assumptions for future years' budgets will continue to be reviewed and amended to reflect the changing circumstances. Earmarked reserves will be reviewed and maintained to support specific pressures. Benefits and support payments, such as council tax support, winter fuel payments and cost of living payments will be publicised widely and paid promptly.	Carys Lord/ Deborah Exton	The MTFS has been updated to reflect the current position. The impact of these changes has been shared with all members via briefing sessions. A review of Earmarked Reserves is ongoing. The impact in the current year is being reported to Scrutiny (revenue monitoring), Cabinet and/or Council via the revenue and capital monitoring reports. The Council is now administering a second winter fuel payment and the discretionary Cost of Living Scheme to support residents. Information regarding the support available for residents is being publicised via the Council's website and social media accounts
Commissioned / Contracted Services	F	As a result of the economic challenges facing all sectors, through rising prices, supply chain issues and staffing issues there is a danger that our partners / commissioned services / contractors may	There is increasing evidence that both our existing contractors and those tendering for work, are reflecting significantly increased costs in their submissions. The Council will need to respond to this proportionately and responsibly,	Mark Shephard/ Carys Lord	A key part of ensuring management of these cost risks within contracts has been the implementation of robust risk and contingency elements into the contract sum of new contracts. Where existing contracts are experiencing cost increases, an

		not continue to be viable, which could disrupt services significantly and place additional pressure on the Council.	recognising the very real pressures but managing the impact on the Council's contractual position and resources effectively, but at the same time ensuring that essential Council services are maintained. Additionally, the significant workforce issues impacting on our ability to recruit and retain staff in many parts of the Council are compromising our ability to deliver services effectively, and reducing our capacity and resilience, a whole series of initiatives are being implemented to help mitigate the impact and address the most acute issues.		element of value engineering is taking place to deliver the project within the envelope. Where this is not possible additional financial resources will be required and prioritised dependent on the stage the project has reached. Where tender submissions are substantially above expected levels or capital allocations, then decisions are now being taken as to the priority and urgency of work against the backdrop of ensuring that essential Council services are maintained.
Review of Code of Corporate Governance and associated schedule	A	Ensuring that the Code of Corporate Governance is kept up to date is crucial to ensure it is fit for purpose.	Last updated in 2017, needs review to ensure it reflects current governance framework. Work commenced on this during 2021-22 but this will be completed and ratified in 2022-23.	Nigel Smith	Work on-going to review and refresh Code, due to complete by 31 March 2023.
Member Development	E	There is likely to be a cohort of new Members following the Local Government Elections in May 2022, who will require significant investment in their development to enable them to undertake their roles in the most	The Member Induction Programme 2022-23 to support new and returning elected members was presented to Council on 9 February 2022. In addition to the ongoing Elected Members Learning and Development Programme, a Training Needs Analysis Questionnaire will be compiled and distributed during December	Kelly Watson/ Laura Griffiths	The full Member Induction Programme has taken place following the election in May, and a number of additional events & training sessions have been held. This includes the Members Marketplace on the 5 th of Sept, which provided the opportunity for Members to meet key officers from across the Council. A training & information session on

		<p>professional and informed manner.</p>	<p>2022 – January 2023. All Members' responses will be analysed and, from this, the ongoing Programme will be developed and presented to the Democratic Services Committee.</p>		<p>the new Members Portal was also held on the 20th September.</p> <p>This explained how the system could be used for best effect and took feedback from members on additional information required to enable self-service.</p> <p>Member Development remains a regular agenda item of the Democratic Services Committee.</p> <p>A Training Needs Analysis Questionnaire has been prepared and will be distributed to all Members later in the year to feed into the ongoing Member Development Programme.</p>
<p>Impact on the Social care sector of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ending of the hardship funding to the sector</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Social Care sector. Short term hardship funding has helped to support the sector, but the ending of this funding will have an impact moving forward.</p>	<p>A market stability plan has been developed to ensure that there are clear plans to deliver sufficiency of quantity and quality of provision in Bridgend.</p>	<p>Claire Marchant</p>	<p>The Market Stability Report was approved by Council in July 2022. It identified a significant number of actions to address sufficiency and sustainability of social care provision across a range of different sectors.</p> <p>A new planning group structure is being implemented to take forward the recommendations from the market stability work.</p> <p>In addition there are specific priority pieces of work progressing in the areas of children residential provision, foster care sufficiency, cost of care of adult care home provision</p>

					and adult community care capacity.
GDPR issues with new ways of working	A	Remote working demands a different security stance than working in centralised offices and the Council must ensure that it remains compliant with data protection laws.	<p>As the Hybrid Policy is implemented additional guidance will be developed on issues such as communicating securely, keeping software updated, safeguarding personal data and the need to use the Council's approved technology.</p> <p>The Council has strict ICT and Data Protection Act (DPA) policies and the Information Governance Board (with representation from each Directorate) continues to meet quarterly ensuring information security remains a top priority during this time.</p> <p>All staff and Elected Members are also required to undertake the mandatory DPA e-learning module.</p>	Debra Beeke/ Laura Griffiths/ Martin Morgans	<p>The Information Governance Board meets quarterly to ensure that the Authority remains compliant with data protection laws.</p> <p>A Bridgenders was circulated to all staff providing guidance on data protection whilst working from home.</p> <p>The new Hybrid Working policy is being finalised (CCMB 4 October 2022) and is clear about employee responsibilities relating to ICT and equipment and the need for compliance with the ICT Code of Conduct. It also covers GDPR, confidentiality and data security in relation to working at home as well as in the office.</p>
Hybrid Meetings	A	As we move towards a hybrid way of working, to ensure that proper governance arrangements are in place to support hybrid committee meetings.	A Multi-location Meetings Policy will be presented to Council for approval.	Kelly Watson/ Debra Beeke	The Multi-locations Meetings Policy was approved by Council on 15 June 2022.