

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 12th May 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Jason McLellan

Report Author: Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

Title: Annual Report of the Corporate Governance Committee

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report is about the activities of the Corporate Governance Committee (the Committee) for the Financial Year 2014/15.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To inform all members of the work of the Committee.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That members note the content of the report.

4. Report details.

4.1 The Council is statutorily required under the provisions of the Local Government Wales Measure 2011 to have an Audit Committee. The Committee is the Council's designated committee for this purpose. The statutory role of the Audit Committee is to review and scrutinise the authority's financial affairs, make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's financial affairs, review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the authority and make reports and recommendations to the authority on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.

The Committee is required to oversee the authority's internal and external audit arrangements, and review the financial statements prepared by the authority. The Committee is also the body that is responsible for keeping the Constitution under review.

4.2 The Council's Constitution provides that the membership of the Committee is made up of six elected members on a politically balanced basis. There is no statutory requirement for the Committee to be politically balanced. There is a statutory requirement to have at least one independent lay member of the Committee and the current lay member is Mr. Paul Witham.

4.3 Each meeting of the Committee is attended by the Council's s151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Head of Internal Audit or their representatives. In addition each meeting is attended by officers of the Wales Audit Office.

4.4 The Chair of the Committee has prepared a report of the Committee's activities over the past year which is attached as Appendix 1.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 The Committee's work in scrutinising the Council's financial affairs, risk management and corporate governance controls assists the Council in delivering the Corporate Priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 The Chair has provided a verbal report to the Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The Committee is a key part of the council's governance arrangements. Effective scrutiny of significant financial processes, systems and transactions is a vital element of internal control and provides a level of assurance to the wider council and other stake holders.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 The risk of not having an effective Corporate Governance or Audit Committee is that there is no oversight of the Council's corporate governance which is a key component of good performance. Weak Corporate Governance can contribute to failures in service delivery.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 There is no decision required as a result of this report.