

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 10 April 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Alan Smith – Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation

Report Author: Lisa Lovegrove – Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Annual Governance Statement 2018-19

1. What is the report about?

To demonstrate good governance, the Council must show that it is complying with the core principles set out in the revised Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (Wales) 2016 edition. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is prepared using a self-assessment and reports on the Council's governance and improvement arrangements for 2018-19, along with progress in addressing the improvement actions contained within the AGS 2017-18. The AGS is reported as part of the final "Statement of Accounts".

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Council has a statutory duty to publish an AGS in compliance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014. The report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on this years 'annual governance statement'.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee reviews and approves the draft annual governance statement for 2018-19 (Appendix 1) and monitors the progress made on the action plan from 2017-18 (Appendix 2).

4. Report details

The Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 (Appendix 1) was developed by performing a self-assessment of the Council's governance arrangements against the Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (Wales) 2016 edition. This was conducted by an officers group representing the key governance functions from across the Council. The AGS referenced various evidence sources and assurance sources such as the Internal Audit Annual Report, External Audit reports, and risk registers.

The AGS highlights any areas of weakness in an action plan, which this Committee will monitor to ensure implementation of the necessary improvements. The AGS concludes that the governance arrangements operate effectively in supporting the Council to meet its objectives.

Progress against the previous year's improvement plan is available in Appendix 2. An update was reported to this committee previously on the 22 November 2018. Where necessary, any actions which are ongoing have been carried forward into the current year's improvement plan.

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

While the 'annual governance statement' does not directly contribute to Corporate Priorities, it provides an assessment and assurance on the delivery of the Corporate Plan, the Council's operational and financial performance, governance arrangements, community engagement etc. that are all directed towards delivering the Corporate Priorities.

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

Not applicable - there is no decision required 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

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.

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

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.

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

If the Governance Improvement Plan is not implemented, weaknesses will remain in the Council's governance arrangements, which could lead to:

- adverse regulatory reports;
- poor use of public money;
- failure to improve key corporate and service areas;
- loss of stakeholder confidence; and
- an adverse impact on the Council's reputation.

11. Power to make the Decision

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.