

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 01 February 2016

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL SELF ASSESSMENT REVIEW 2014/15

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM: 5.2

Reason for this Report

1. The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference sets out their responsibility for overseeing governance, risk and control and it is important they are able to demonstrate that they are effective in doing so. A Self-Assessment exercise is undertaken annually in order to measure the effectiveness of the Committee in undertaking its role.
2. This report has been prepared to provide Audit Committee with an updated position on the improvement actions resulting from the Self-Assessment closed session workshop in January 2015.

Background

3. The Audit Committee undertook their first self assessment in December 2013. Future assessments were considered appropriate to take place annually to feed into the Audit Committee's Annual Report.
4. The Self Assessment Framework was produced based on best practice guidance from CIPFA, the requirements of the Local Government Measure and local knowledge of the Council. The latest workshop, held in January 2015, was facilitated by the Wales Audit Office and the Audit & Risk Manager; both the Corporate Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Governance and Legal Services were in attendance.
5. At the workshop, Members of the Committee completed a Self Assessment exercise, answering yes, no or partly to the Self Assessment Questionnaire which comprised forty six questions. All questions were answered; the majority of questions were answered with yes and a small minority with partly. The questionnaire itself was used to show the evidence thought appropriate to support the response for each question.
6. In January 2015, following completion of the Self Assessment questionnaire an Action Plan was produced. The Action Plan included sixteen proposed actions for improvement, for which a series of target dates were set and action owners allocated.

Issues

7. The Audit and Risk Manager has reviewed the current position of the sixteen improvement actions from the January 2015 Self Assessment. An updated assessment is included in Appendix A.
8. This shows that most of the actions have now been implemented. Two actions (reference 5 and 6) are contingent on the finalisation of a Scrutiny and Audit Protocol. This protocol has been drafted and discussed, and has an approval target of quarter four 2015/16. The remaining actions can be updated and considered when the next workshop is held, scheduled for September 2016.
9. This review provides strong assurance around the role of the Audit Committee and the ongoing work to drive improvements in identified areas.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. To inform the Audit Committee of the updated position, against the improvement actions from the 2015 Self Assessment.

Legal Implications

11. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

13. Audit Committee to consider the updated Action Plan position as summarised in Appendix A and the current status of ongoing actions.

**CHRISTINE SALTER
CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES**

Date: 11.01.16

The following Appendix is attached:

**Appendix A – Self-Assessment Improvement Actions (2015) – Updated Position
(February 2016)**