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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 17th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: A. Blackmore (Chairman)
County Councillor Tony Easson, (Vice Chairman)

Lay Members: C. Prosser, M. Veale, R. Guest,

County Councillor: Sara Burch, John Crook, David Jones and Peter Strong

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Davies	Acting Chief Executive
Jan Furtek	Acting Chief Internal Auditor
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Charlotte Owen	Audit Wales Officer
Richard Jones	Performance and Data Insight Manager
Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance
Rachel Freitag	Audit Wales Officer
Hannah Carter	Performance Analyst

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy and Ann Webb

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. To note the Action List from the previous meeting.

No action points were outstanding.

4. Audit Wales Grants Report

The Audit Wales Officer presented the Audit Wales Grants Report. Members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

https://www.youtube.com/live/lHNIJuQL_v8?si=SXD3W3EtvJGaYKBf&t=67

The report was noted.

5. Audit Wales Financial Sustainability

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The Audit Wales Officer presented the Financial Sustainability Report. The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer presented the Council's Response to the paper.

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=0y4fQhOfxDGZR-XA&t=618

The report was noted.

6. Annual Audit Plan 22.23 Welsh Church Funds

The Audit Wales Officer presented the Annual Audit Plan 2023/24.

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=lyNg_rc8s1ySMitP&t=1360

The report was noted.

7. Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Update

The Performance Analyst presented the Audit Wales Work Programme Council Progress Update Report. Committee Members were invited to ask questions:

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=Jq_U3t7HynHJf_I_&t=1431

As per the report recommendations, Committee Members

1. scrutinised the council's response to the Audit Wales work programme, and sought assurance that adequate progress is being made.
2. considered referring any issues contained within Audit Wales national studies to other committees for consideration where they identified there are findings of particular relevance to the council that need further scrutiny. In doing so, it was resolved to request that the relevant scrutiny committee reviews the success of Active Travel schemes and the expectations and aspirations of local residents.

The report was noted.

8. Presentation on the new Global Internal Audit Standards and the Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government

The Governance and Audit Committee received a presentation from the Interim Chief Internal Auditor on the new Global Internal Audit Standards and the Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government. Committee Members were given the opportunity to ask questions:

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=Vbh6H-XA9_K0Nocx&t=3170

The Interim Chief Internal Auditor was thanked for the presentation.

9. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan

The Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan was noted.

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=w1KySnxTv6cEe3_n&t=4509

10. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

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The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th September 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

https://www.youtube.com/live/IHNIJuQL_v8?si=C4HWSdl4MNR3J0WP&t=4523

11. **Date of Next Meeting: 28th November 2024 at 2.00pm**

Meeting ended at 3.17 pm

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