

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held
at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Monday, 29th April, 2024 at 2.00
pm**

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

Lay Members: Colin Prosser, Martin Veale, Rhodri Guest,

County Councillor: Sara Burch, John Crook, Malcolm Lane,
Phil Murphy, Peter Strong and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Jan Furtek	Audit Manager
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Richard Jones	Performance and Data Insight Manager
Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance
Emma Tapper	Governance & Assurance Officer
Hannah Carter	Performance Analyst
Gareth Lucey	Audit Wales Engagement Director
Jason Williams	Senior Auditor

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor David Jones

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.

The action list from the last meeting was noted.

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1. Finance Team capacity: OPEN
2. People Strategy: OPEN
3. Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Data Subject Access Requests:
Corporate risk control policies: CLOSED
4. MCC Statement of accounts/ISA260: OPEN

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4. Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Update

The Performance Analyst and Performance and Data Insight Manager presented the Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Update followed by responses from the Audit Wales Engagement Director (Monmouthshire) and Senior Auditor. Committee Members were then invited to comment and ask questions.

[View discussion of this item, questions and comments here](#)

As per the report recommendations:

1. Members scrutinised the council's response to the Audit Wales work programme, and sought assurance that adequate progress is being made.
2. Members did not refer any issues contained within Audit Wales national studies to other committees for consideration where they identify there are findings of particular relevance to the council that need further scrutiny.

5. Effectiveness of Strategic Risk Management Framework

The Performance and Data Insight Manager and Performance Analyst presented a report on the Effectiveness of the Strategic Risk Management Framework. Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to ask questions.

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As set out in the report recommendations:

1. Members reviewed the updates proposed to the strategic risk management policy and had the opportunity to recommend any changes to inform its further development.
2. Members used the assessment to seek assurance about the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements; and
3. Members noted the further corporate risk control policies identified that the Committee could review in more detail as part of its forward work programme.

6. Internal Audit Plan 24/25

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Plan 2024/25. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

[View discussion of this item, questions and comments here](#)

As per the report recommendations the Governance and Audit Committee reviewed, commented on and approved the Internal Audit Plan 2024/25.

7. External Quality Assessment (EQA) of Internal Audit 2024

The Chief Internal Auditor presented a report on the External Quality Assessment (EQA) of Internal Audit 2024. Following presentation of the report, Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions:

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As contained in the report recommendations, the Committee noted the report and requested updates on progress in fulfilling the action plan.

8. Implementation of Internal Audit agreed recommendations

The Chief Internal Auditor presented a report on the extent to which officers have implemented Internal Audit recommendations. Following presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to ask questions.

[View the discussion of this item, questions and comments here](#)

As per the report recommendations the Governance & Audit Committee noted this report and the actions taken by operational managers.

9. Proposed Future Delivery Model for the Internal Audit Service

The Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources presented a report on the Proposed Future Delivery Model for the Internal Audit Service. Members were then invited to ask questions.

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As detailed in the report recommendations:

1. The Committee considered and noted the options appraisal providing comment on the proposed delivery model for Internal Audit, and
2. The Committee supported the strengthening of Counter-Fraud arrangements within Monmouthshire County Council creating a new post within the Internal Audit team dedicated to fraud response and training.

10. Audit Wales Performance Data Review

The Audit Wales Engagement Director (Monmouthshire) and Senior Auditor presented the Audit Wales Performance Data Review. The Performance and Data Insight Manager responded to questions:

[View discussion of this item, questions and comments, here](#)

11. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan

The Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan was noted.

[Watch here](#)

12. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

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[Watch here](#)

13. Date of Next Meeting: 6th June 2024

Meeting ended at 3.49 pm