

# **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting of Governance and Audit Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Monday, 2nd June, 2025 at 2.00 pm**

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

Lay Members: Rhodri Guest,

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

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Peter Davies    | Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources |
| 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  |
| Emma Tapper     | Governance & Assurance Officer                         |
| Steve Wyndham   | Audit Wales Officer                                    |

### **APOLOGIES:**

Colin Prosser

#### **1. Election of Chair**

Andrew Blackmore was elected as Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee.

#### **2. Appointment of Vice Chair**

County Councillor Tony Easson was appointed as Vice Chair.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Interest were made.

#### **4. Public Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

#### **5. To note the Action List from the previous meeting.**

The action list from the previous meeting was noted.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=ILXQCNjvoDiP0z6k>

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Draft Internal Audit Plan: This was circulated to Committee Members and the final version is on the agenda today [CLOSED]

Update of Contract Procedures Rules - Advise Leader of the Committee's Comments: A conversation with the Leader took place with a satisfactory outcome that enabled Council to approve the report to Update Contract Procedural Rules. [CLOSED]

#### **6. Self Assessment of Performance Management Arrangements Report**

The Performance and Data Insights Manager presented a report on the Self- Assessment of Performance Management Arrangements. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=11puRV0mfEOwydoK>

As contained in the report recommendations, members used the update provided to inform their understanding of the effectiveness of the operation of the authority's performance management arrangements and to identify any areas where they feel action needs to be taken or further information provided.

#### **7. Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Report**

The Performance Analyst presented the Audit Wales Work Programme: Council Progress Report. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=BcSxujvHAXgX9Ox8>

As per the report recommendations, Members scrutinised the council's response to the Audit Wales work programme, seeking assurance that adequate progress is being made and Members had an opportunity to 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.

#### **8. Audit Wales Q4 work programme and timetable update**

Audit Wales Officers presented the Audit Wales Q4 Work Programme and Timetable update. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=OropOliv\\_5DTO83j](https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=OropOliv_5DTO83j)

The report was noted.

#### **9. Audit Wales Annual Audit Plan 2025/26**

Audit Wales Officers presented the Audit Wales Annual Audit Plan 2025/26. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=HuWA6S32EeIJxZKy>

The report was noted.

#### **10. Internal Audit Plan 2025/26**

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The Acting Chief Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Plan 2025/26. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=iPpemloPhDcnSH7E>

As recommended, the Governance and Audit Committee reviewed, commented on and approved the Internal Audit Plan 2025/26.

### **11. Implementation of Internal Audit agreed recommendations**

The Acting Internal Auditor presented a report on the Implementation of Internal Audit agreed recommendations. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=D2HaLporhnOHsa1O>

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

### **12. Internal Audit Charter, Mandate and Strategy**

The Acting Chief Internal Auditor presented a report on the Internal Audit Charter, Mandate and Strategy. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=7zghFTvKuf-8MnB2>

As per the report recommendations, the Committee noted the Internal Audit Mandate and Methodologies. The Committee approved the Internal Audit Charter, Mandate and Strategy.

### **13. Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Plan**

The Forward Work Plan was noted.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=7zghFTvKuf-8MnB2>

### **14. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2Dy0fE-F8Uo?si=SbkapJIZUjJ6F7Dn>

### **15. Date of Next Meeting: 12th June 2025**

**Meeting ended at 3.27 pm**