

SUBJECT: Audit Wales Springing Forward Monmouthshire County Council Report
MEETING: Governance and Audit Committee
DATE: 8 th September 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide the committee with the Audit Wales Springing Forward report of Monmouthshire County Council and the Council's Management Response.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee review the Audit Wales Springing Forward report and seek assurance of the adequacy of the Council's Management response.
- 2.2 That the committee refer on any issues contained within Audit Wales report to other committees for consideration if they identify there are findings of relevance.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Each year, Audit Wales produces an Audit Plan, which sets out the work they intend to undertake to discharge their duties, and this is presented to Governance and Audit committee upon publication. The 'Springing forward review' formed part of the Monmouthshire Council audit work plan for the 2021/22 audit year.
- 3.2 The attached 'Spring Forward – Monmouthshire County Council' report provides the committee with the findings of the Audit Wales review. The report reviews the Council's arrangements for managing its assets and workforce. For assets, the primary focus was on office accommodation and buildings from which the Council delivers services to its residents; and for workforce, the focus has been on the challenges highlighted during the pandemic that have exacerbated some long-standing workforce issues. The report looks at how the Council strategically plans to use its assets and workforce, how it monitors their use and how it reviews and evaluates the effectiveness of its arrangements.
- 3.3 The report is provided to Governance and Audit Committee as part of its role to provide assurance on the effectiveness of the council's governance and performance management arrangements and oversight of the Audit Wales work programme. Governance and Audit Committee can also refer reports to another scrutiny committee if they feel the reports require further consideration that is specifically relevant to the committees work programme. The committee may also refer issues to Democratic Services Committee who are able to perform a coordinating function.
- 3.4 Attached is the Council's Management response to the recommendations in the Audit Wales report setting out the action the Council plans to take to address the recommendations. The progress with implementing the management response will be monitored as part of the regular progress update on the Audit Wales work programme provided to the Committee.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. However, there may be resource implications in undertaking further actions identified in the management response. These would be subject to the usual council decision-making processes.

5. AUTHOR:

Report to be presented by Audit Wales. Management response completed by Monmouthshire Council.

6. CONTACT DETAILS:

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