

SUBJECT: Audit Wales Assurance and Risk Assessment Review - Monmouthshire County Council

MEETING: Governance and Audit Committee

DATE: 13th October 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide the committee with the Audit Wales Assurance and Risk Assessment Review of Monmouthshire County Council and the Council's Management Response.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee review the Audit Wales Assurance and Risk Assessment Review 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 The attached 'Assurance and Risk Assessment Review – Monmouthshire County Council' report provides the committee with the findings of the Audit Wales review. The purpose of the report was to identify the level of audit assurance needed and whether more will be needed in the future in relation to risks to the Council putting in place arrangements to secure value for money from resources. The review also aided Audit Wales in assessing the extent to which the Council is applying the sustainable development principle when meeting its well-being objectives. The report focuses on three areas of the Council, namely the financial position; the implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021; and the carbon reduction plan.
- 3.2 This report focuses on areas where Audit Wales has undertaken more detailed Assurance and Risk Assessment work. An Annual Audit Summary will also be produced in the autumn of 2022, summarising all audit work undertaken since the last Annual Audit Summary in January 2022.
- 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 committees 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:

Richard Jones, Performance Manager
E-mail: richardjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01633 740733