

## GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Decision Notice –Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#)

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: G. Chapman (Chair and Lay Member); N. Ireland (Vice-Chair and Lay Member); Councillors P. Drake, E. Goodjohn, J.M. Norman, J. Protheroe and N. Wood; and M. Evans (Lay Member).

Also present: Councillors C.P. Franks, G. John and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

### AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor M.J. Hooper.

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor E. Goodjohn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 4 - Cost of Living Support for Food, Warm Spaces and Other Means of Support Reference from Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Goodjohn's mother was the Chair of Buttrills Community Centre. Councillor Goodjohn withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

### AGENDA ITEM 4. COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR FOOD, WARM SPACES AND OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT (REF) –

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the following views raised by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be referred with the report to Cabinet as part of their consideration of the Council's actions in response to Audit Wales's work:

- It was important for the Council to look at raising the awareness, as well as expanding the delivery, of warm spaces and related services throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, and to look at deepening such support i.e. to provide

services that deal with isolation, and support vulnerable residents and communities.

(2) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the view of Governance and Audit Committee for greater consideration and emphasis to be placed on cost living challenges facing rural communities.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) Having considered the contents of the reference and the related report.

(2) To highlight the cost of living challenges facing rural communities which may receive less emphasis in comparison to urban areas.

#### AGENDA ITEM 5. AUDIT WALES NATIONAL STUDY: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAS): MORE THAN A TICK BOX EXERCISE? (REF) –

#### RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of both the covering and appended Audit Wales report be noted.

(2) T H A T the following comments made by the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement of the Council's proposed actions to address the Audit Wales recommendation (R4):

- Committee consider that mental health inequality is under-reported and this issue has a significant impact on the population and workforce. Therefore, a focus on mental health-related disability is importantly needed in Equality Impact Assessments. This is particularly important in light of the post pandemic world and the difficulty in re-engaging some young people and adults back into school or work.

(3) T H A T the following views of the Governance and Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for consideration:

- The importance to ensure that each of the Protected Characteristics are not under reported and given proper consideration when completing the review of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment process.
- For it not to be forgotten that individuals may come under more than one of the Protected Characteristics and for this to be made clear in any guidance document produced.
- The Council should consider the possible introduction of an Integrated Impact Assessment as used by other Council's alongside Equality Impact Assessments which also encompass other factors such as environmental impacts etc.
- More use of an online assessment.

- Adding embedded links to external data sources to make the completion of an assessment less complicated.
- For views and opinions of people of the Protected Characteristics to be heard as part of the review of the Council's process.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the reference and related report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) For Cabinet to consider the views of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) For Cabinet to consider the views of the Governance and Audit Committee.

#### AGENDA ITEM 6. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QTR 3 UPDATE (CX) –

#### RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Quarter 3 position of corporate risks (April 2022-December 2022) outlined in the Risk Summary Report (attached at Annex A to the report) be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be requested to endorse the views expressed by the Governance and Audit Committee, those being:
  - For a Risk Register development workshop to be held with Members.
  - For consideration to be given to:
    - how mitigating actions and their associated impacts are presented,
    - ensuring that the residual scoring mechanism is robust and accurately reflects the risks to the Council, and
    - how compounding impacts associated with multiple risks are presented.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the views expressed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE UPDATE 2022/23 (DCR) –

#### RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T Cabinet consider the suggested amendments to the review document set out at Appendix 1 to the report, those being:

- For commentary to be added to reflect the risk management work undertaken by the Governance and Audit Committee and to also include reference to a proposed Risk Management Workshop for Members.
- The inclusion of a table to highlight action planning and whether the Council is being compliant to their objectives.
- Under areas of development reference to be added to the introduction of a Chief Officer Appraisal scheme.

(2) T H A T Cabinet endorse a recommendation by the Governance and Audit Committee for future review documents to undergo peer or independent external assessment on a biennial basis.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To request Cabinet endorse the amendments suggested by the Governance and Audit Committee.

(2) To seek Cabinet's endorsement for future review documents to undergo peer or independent external assessment.

#### AGENDA ITEM 8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24 AND UPDATE FOR 2022/23 (DCR) –

#### RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Treasury Management interim report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the policy for making Minimum Revenue Provision in 2023/24 be endorsed.

(3) T H A T the proposed 2023/24 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy including the following specific resolutions (detailed in Appendix 1 to the report) be endorsed:

- The Authorised Limit for External Debt be set at £225.439m for 2022/23, £247.141m for 2023/24, £276.773m for 2024/25 and £305.927m for 2025/26
- The Operational Boundary for External Debt be set at £212.292m for 2022/23, £234.021m for 2023/24, £263.349m for 2024/25 and £292.295m for 2025/26.
- The Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority within the total Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary as estimated for individual years to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities.
- An upper limit of £10m for 2022/23, £10m for 2023/24, £10m in 2024/25 and £10m in 2025/26 be set for total principal sums invested for over 364 days.
- The amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate for 2023/24 be set as:

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

- The Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- The Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

4. T H A T the Treasury Management Practices set out in Appendix 3 to the report be noted.

Reason for decisions

(1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. RECOMMENDATION MONITORING (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T an additional update be provided to the Governance and Audit Committee for its meeting scheduled during April 2023
- (3) T H A t the Council’s Strategic Leadership Team be asked to consider the concern of the Governance and Audit Committee to the number of lack of responses to update requests made by the Internal Audit Services.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To provide an update to the Governance and Audit Committee.
- (3) Given the number of lack of responses to update requests from the Internal Audit Service.

AGENDA ITEM 10. UPDATED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (HRIAS) –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Forward Work Programme be noted.

(2) T H A T the schedule of items for the next meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be endorsed subject to the inclusion of Recommendation Monitoring update.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To ensure the Governance and Audit Committee is aware and informed of progress on the proposed Work Programme.