

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr
Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To:
Co-opted Members: Allan Rainford (Chair), Sally Ellis and Brian Harvey

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Allan Marshall, Ted Palmer,
Andrew Parkhurst and Linda Thomas

4 April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2024 at 10.00 AM

*** Members of the Committee are reminded that there will be a training session on the Annual Governance Statement prior to the meeting**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 12)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024.

4 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23** (Pages 13 - 204)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager -

Purpose: To present the final audited version of the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 for approval.

5 **AUDIT WALES REPORT: HOMELESSNESS SERVICES - FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** (Pages 205 - 222)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

Purpose: To share with the Committee the findings of the Audit Wales review into Homeless Prevention at Flintshire Council and seek approval to provide formal Organisational Response to Audit Wales.

6 **AUDIT WALES ASSURANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW REPORT 2021-22** (Pages 223 - 240)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To summarise the findings to Governance and Audit Committee of the detailed assurance and risk assessment work undertaken.

7 **DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) UPDATE**

Purpose: To provide a verbal update on the internal audit of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks report 07 - 2023/24 Final Report - January 2024.

8 **QUARTER 4 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24** (Pages 241 - 254)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager -

Purpose: To provide an update on matters relating to the Council's Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Practices to the end of February 2024.

9 **GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT** (Pages 255 - 270)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To present the results of the Governance & Audit Committee self-assessment which will feed into the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement. It will also form the basis for the provision of any further training required by the Committee.

10 **PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS** (Pages 271 - 286)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To inform the Committee of the results of the annual internal assessment of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

11 **EXTERNAL REGULATION ASSURANCE 2023-24** (Pages 287 - 330)

Report of Chief Executive -

Purpose: To endorse the summary of all external regulatory reports received during 2023/24 along with the Council's responses.

12 **INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGIC PLAN** (Pages 331 - 354)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To present the proposed Internal Audit Plan for the three year period 2024/25 to 2026/27 for Members' consideration.

13 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT** (Pages 355 - 414)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To present to the Committee an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Department.

14 **ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 415 - 418)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.

15 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 419 - 424)

Report of Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager -

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14, 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The information relates to financial or business affairs and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The information relates to action taken in connection with the prevention of crime and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

16 **UPDATE AGAINST ANONYMOUS ALLEGATIONS**

Purpose: To respond to queries raised by Members in a closed session.

Note: Annual Meeting with Internal and External Auditors

In accordance with the agreed procedure, members of the Governance & Audit Committee will meet with the Internal and External Auditors immediately following the meeting.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours