

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 25 th November 2024
Report Subject	Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 - Mid-Year Progress Update Report
Report Author	Chief Officer, Governance
Type of Report	Assurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year the Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of its final accounts. The AGS explains how the Council has complied with its Code of Corporate Governance, in securing good governance and managing its risks.

The AGS for 2023/24 was presented to Governance and Audit Committee in July 2024 with a commitment that the Governance and Audit Committee would receive a mid-year progress update report on the areas identified for improvement within the AGS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider and accept the AGS 2023/24 Mid-year Progress Report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00 EXPLAINING THE AGS MID-YEAR PROGRESS REVIEW REPORT													
1.01	Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018, each local authority must ensure it has a sound system of internal control to ensure good governance and manage risks. Each year they must conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system and prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The review must be considered and the AGS approved by a Committee or full Council.												
1.02	The AGS Mid-year Progress Review Report is reported to Governance and Audit Committee to show what progress has been made against the actions from the assessment of the Council's Corporate Governance Framework where areas of best practice and areas for further improvement were identified.												
1.03	<p>Please find below a brief summary on progress against the significant Governance issues identified in the AGS;</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Number</th><th>Open</th><th>Closed</th><th>Progress RAG Green</th><th>Progress RAG Amber</th><th>Progress RAG Red</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>14</td><td>10</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Of the 19 Strategic issues identified in the AGS all 19 issues remain open and further details can be found in the AGS 2023/24 Mid-year Progress Report (Appendix A).</p>	Number	Open	Closed	Progress RAG Green	Progress RAG Amber	Progress RAG Red	14	10	4	6	1	3
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2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
2.01	There are no direct resource implications related to this report.

3.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT	
3.01	The mid-year report has been produced using information from all Statutory and Chief Officers and Service Managers.

4.00 RISK MANAGEMENT	
4.01	The Annual Governance Statement lists all the significant governance issues arising from the self-assessment along with any outstanding 'red' strategic risks. The Statement also describes actions taken against the governance issues reported in last year's Annual Governance Statement.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A AGS 2023/24 Mid-year Progress Report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Sam Perry, Performance and Risk Management Support Officer</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 701476</p> <p>E-mail: Sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Corporate Governance: the system by which Local Authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities. It is founded on the basic principles of openness and inclusivity, integrity and accountability together with the overarching concept of leadership. It is an inter-related system that brings together the underlying set of legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes.</p> <p>Risk Management: the process of identifying risks, evaluating their potential consequences and managing them. The aim is to reduce the frequency or likelihood of risk events occurring (wherever this is possible) and minimise the consequences if they occur. Opportunities are managed by identifying strategies to maximise the opportunity or reward for the organisation.</p> <p>Financial Accounts / Statements: The Council’s annual finance report providing details of the Council’s financial performance and position at the end of the financial year. The format is prescribed to enable external comparison with other public and private entities.</p> <p>Audit Wales: Their aim is to assure the people of Wales that public money is being managed well. Explain how public money is being used and how it meets people’s needs. Inspire and empower the Welsh public sector to improve.</p>