

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 25 th November 2024
Report Subject	Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Assurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 sets out a duty to report on performance and states 'A council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.' This Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 aims to achieve the duty set out above for the act and for the use by the Council.

The Corporate Self-assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the corporate organisation and not a detailed assessment of the performance of each service portfolio, and therefore, the assessment themes have been designed in this way.

In September the Corporate Self-assessment for 2023/24 was presented to Governance and Audit Committee for consideration. Whilst the findings had been discussed at a Members workshop in July 2024 and presented to Cabinet the day prior to the Governance and Audit Committee meeting in September 2024, there was further discussion as to whether the report should be further amended.

This report addresses those comments raised by Members following the Governance and Audit Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To be assured of the update provided to Committee regarding the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2023/24
1.01	<p>In September the Corporate Self-assessment for 2023/24 was presented to Governance and Audit Committee for consideration. Whilst the findings had been discussed at a Members workshop and presented to Cabinet there was further discussion as to whether the report should be amended based on the recent findings of the Audit Wales, Financial Sustainability Review report.</p> <p>During the debate, concerns were raised that some of the responses may require a 'sense check', for example, question B15. Members of the Committee agreed to raise any other areas of concern or areas for review to the Internal Audit Manager by 11th October 2024, so an updated report could be provided at the next meeting (25th November 2024).</p> <p>To date only one Member provided further information to the Internal Audit Manager.</p>
1.02	<p>The areas identified by Members were reviewed in line with the current Corporate Self- assessment, previous Corporate Self-assessments (2021/22 and 2022/23) and the recent findings of the Audit Wales, Financial Sustainability Review report.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Financial Sustainability review report was produced after the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24.</p>
1.03	<p>Following a further review of the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 it was determined that the current scores within the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 for those areas raised by Members, had already been reduced and identified as an Opportunity for Improvement. For other areas raised by Members, that had not been identified as an Opportunity for Improvement and given the Corporate Self-assessment is based on 2023/24, that any further changes would be reviewed and included within the Corporate Self-assessment 2024/25. This is covered in further detail within Appendix A.</p>
2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>A risk in delivering some of the Opportunities for Improvement identified in the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 are in relation to available resources.</p>
3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>The results of Stage One were shared with Senior Managers at Senior Leadership Academi where some of the results were considered, challenged, and evaluated.</p>

	<p>During Stage Two, consultation was undertaken with Chief Officer - Governance, Officers, and a number of Members from Cabinet, the Governance and Audit Committee and the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to further consider, challenge and evaluate the feedback and scores to ensure that we as a Council are continuously self-assessing our performance.</p> <p>Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to consider and review the content of the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 and the Opportunities for Improvement (detailed within the Corporate Self-assessment) on 12th September 2024. Recommendation at this meeting was to reintroduce the section specific to consultation. The Corporate Self-assessment has been amended and Section 7 details what consultation had been undertaken during 2023/24 and information regarding future development of a Consultation and Engagement Hub.</p> <p>Governance and Audit Committee had an opportunity to consider and review the content of the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 and the Opportunities for Improvement (detailed within the Corporate Self-assessment) at Governance and Audit Committee meeting on 26th September 2024.</p>
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4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Risk Management feeds into the Corporate Self-assessment and is assessed within the themes and questions. A key risk in delivering some of the Opportunities for Improvement identified in the Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24, are in relation to available resources.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A: Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24 Summary Update Note Appendix B: Corporate Self-Assessment 2023/24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Council Plan (2023-28) Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 Panel Performance Assessment Methodology Audit Wales – Financial Sustainability Review Report

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Emma Heath (Strategic Performance Advisor) Telephone: 01352 702 744 E-mail: emma.heath@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Annual Governance Statement: is a public document that reports on the extent to which we as the Council comply with our own code of governance. This is a requirement by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 to prepare a statement on internal control.</p> <p>Panel Performance Assessment: The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a duty on councils to arrange for a panel to undertake and respond to a corporate, organisational level assessment, of the extent to which the council is meeting its performance requirements.</p>