

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 26 th January 2022
Report Subject	Annual Governance Statement 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 2020/21 was presented to Governance and Audit committee in June 2021 with a commitment that the Governance & Audit Committee would receive a mid-year progress update report on the areas for improvement within the AGS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider and accept the AGS mid-year progress update report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE MID-YEAR AGS 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	This is the first mid-year progress update report (Appendix A) reported to Committee to provide an update on the areas for improvements made within the actions set out in the AGS.

1.03	The preparation of the AGS' Mid-Year progress update report has been coordinated by the Corporate Governance Working Group (CGWG) which has reported to the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer on its work.		
1.04	You will see the mid-year progress update report is split between Governance and Strategic issues. Detailed progress against these can be found in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 respectively of Appendix A.		
	Overall you will see positive progress has been made in addressing these issues. This being:		
	Areas for Improvement	Risks Closed	Risks Remaining Open
	Governance	2	1
	Strategic	6	15

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' (major) risks contained within the Council Plan end of year report. 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 Mid-Year AGS Report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Lisa Brownbill, Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702231</p> <p>E-mail: Lisa.brownbill@flintshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jay Davies, Strategic Performance Advisor</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702744</p> <p>E-mail: Jay.davies@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>Wales Audit Office: works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p>