

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26th MARCH 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 - AUDIT COMMITTEE CHANGES

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note that in accordance with the Local Government And Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the Authority is required to change the name of the Committee to the “Governance and Audit Committee” and include the following additional terms of reference :-

- (a) review and assess the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively;
- (b) make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively

Reasons:

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act received Royal Ascent on the 20th January 2021. Chapter 2 of the Act makes changes to the Audit Committee name, membership and proceedings.

Scrutiny committee consulted	Not Applicable
Exec Board Decision Required	NO
Council Decision Required	NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Emlyn Dole – Leader/Cllr David Jenkins – Executive Board Member for Resources

Directorate		Tel Nos. 01267 224010
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	E Mail Addresses:
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Report Author:		
Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26TH MARCH 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 AUDIT COMMITTEE CHANGES

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on the 20th January 2021 and Chapter 2 of the Act makes changes to the Audit Committee name, membership and proceedings.

The changes to the Audit Committee are split and will come into force as follows:-

Re-naming of Audit Committees – coming into force on the 1 April 2021.

This section provides for the re-naming of Audit Committees to ‘Governance and Audit Committees’ and requires the Committee to undertake additional functions, namely those functions set out in Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Act and:

- (a) review and assess the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively;
- (b) make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively

Further changes will come into force on the 5th May 2022 which will require one third of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to be lay persons and for the lay person to be appointed as Committee Chair. Arrangements for the appointment of the lay members will be made later in the year.

The necessary changes to the Council constitution will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council on the 19th May 2021 and again at the first meeting of the Council following the local government elections in May 2022.

**DETAILED
REPORT
ATTACHED ?**

YES

Amended Terms of reference.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors/Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed:

**Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan**

**Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

The changes to the Audit Committee arrangements are contained within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed:

**Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan**

**Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee

Not Applicable

2. Local Member(s)

Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Not Applicable.

4. Relevant Partners

Not Applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not Applicable

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in of the preparation this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:-

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Local Government and Elections Wales Act		https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted