

## Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

### Audit Committee – Draft Annual Report 2017-2018

#### Introduction

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Audit Committee of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council throughout the 2017-2018 Civic Year. It is the first such report to be produced by the Committee, and its publication is an attempt to provide an element of good practice for members in addition to the production of an appropriate yardstick with which to approach the generation of future reports.

#### Membership

The Members of the Audit Committee were:

Councillors A.R.Aubrey, M.Crowley, S.E.Freeguard, H.N.James, J.Miller, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, H.C.Clarke, J. Warman and R.W.Wood.

Voting Lay Member: J.Jenkins.

The Committee Chair was Cllr. Dr. Del Morgan, and the Vice Chair was Cllr. Linet Purcell.

#### Work Programme

The Committee's forward work programme is agreed by members on a rolling basis, although this Committee's work is often driven by statutory requirements or by the dynamic necessities of particular circumstances as they arise.

The Committee met four times formally during the year, and there were additional training opportunities provided for members outside of these formal meetings.

#### Specific Duties and Tasks Undertaken by the Committee

The Committee approved the Council's Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee approved the Council's Internal Audit Plan for the year.

The Committee continually monitored Internal Audit performance against the plan.

The Committee monitored External Audit Performance.

The Council participated in the external review of Internal Audit to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS); the Committee oversaw this activity, whilst the Chair actively participated in an interview with the external review officer.

The Committee received the external assessors' report in relation to the external review, and the accompanying action plan on the Council's compliance with PSIAS; it was pleasing to record that Neath Port Talbot Council was awarded the highest rating possible.

The Committee approved a revised Internal Audit Charter.

The Committee received regular details of all investigations relating to theft, fraud and malpractice.

The Committee received Treasury Management Progress Reports.

The Committee received training in key aspects of the Committee's duties and work requirements. The key items covered during 2017-2018 were the Role of Internal Audit and the Role of the Audit Committee. The Committee Chair has also attended training in relation to chairing committees.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee are offered pre-committee briefings prior to each meeting in the cycle, which have been attended.

Cllr. Dr. Del Morgan, Chair  
November 2018