

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Audit Committee – Annual Report 2019-2020

Introduction

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Audit Committee of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council throughout the 2019-2020 Civic Year.

Membership

The members of the Audit Committee were: Councillors Dr D.Morgan, L. Purcell, J.Miller, R.W.Wood, O.S.Davies, A.N.Woolcock, A.J.Richards, H.C.Clark, S.Renkes, R.Mizen, R.Taylor, S.Freeguard and Mrs J Jenkins (Voting Lay Member)

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 with the final meeting scheduled for March 2020 cancelled due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Specific Duties and Tasks Undertaken by the Committee

The Committee received and approved the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 which included consideration of the Wales Audit Office's ISA 260 report. As part of this process the Committee also approved the Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee approved the Council's Internal Audit Plan for the year. Members discussed the various audits being proposed and queried the rationale for some and also the relative risk ratings. Officers provided an overview in relation to the process of compiling the plan and how the risk ratings were derived.

The Committee on a quarterly basis monitored Internal Audit performance against the plan. The Audit Manager responded to all questions asked by Members and provided further information at future meetings where appropriate. The final progress report for the year was not received by the Committee due to the cancellation of the March meeting.

The Committee monitored External Audit Performance and received update reports from Wales Audit Office. The Committee also received training in the system of Audit

Wales Performance Reviews, and this has now become a regular substantive agenda item for the Committee.

The Committee approved a revised Internal Audit Charter.

The Committee received regular details of all investigations relating to theft, fraud and malpractice. This included seeking specific assurances from one school within the County Borough regarding DBS issues; and receiving feedback confirming all issues were fully resolved.

The Committee received Treasury Management Progress Reports in order to fulfill their obligations in relation to the Scrutiny of Treasury Management activity.

(Cllr. Dr. Del Morgan, Chair)

(January 2021)