

Meeting of:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 23 September 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Forward Work Programme 2024/25
Purpose of Report:	To provide Members with a Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
Report Owner:	Head of Regional Internal Audit Service
Responsible Officer:	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	No Elected Members have been consulted. Legal Services and Head of Finance
Policy Framework:	The proposals in this report are in accordance with the policy framework and budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governance and Audit Committee has several core functions and responsibilities within its remit. • It receives reports and presentations throughout the year to enable it to carry out those core functions and responsibilities effectively and to provide it with confidence in the financial governance of the Authority. • To enable the Committee to provide this assurance and to ensure it is covering its range of responsibilities, a Forward Work Programme is presented at each meeting, setting out the reports to be presented at future meetings, for approval or amendment, as necessary. • The updated Forward Work Programme (FWP) for 2024/25 has been produced and is at Appendix A. • Committee is requested to approve the updated FWP or request changes for future meetings. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Committee considers and notes the Forward Work Programme.
2. That the Committee is asked to endorse the schedule of items for the next meeting on 21st October 2024 and confirm the list of people it would like to invite for each item (if appropriate) and indicate whether any additional information is required.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure the Governance and Audit Committee is aware of the proposed work programme.
2. To confirm attendance and information requirements.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Governance and Audit Committee's Forward Work Programme assists the Committee in ensuring that due consideration is given to all aspects of their core functions as set out in their Terms of Reference within the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Items feed into the Committee's Forward Work Programme from several sources. Many items are standard every quarter, six monthly or annually, and Members can also suggest topics for review by the Committee. Items can also be referred by the Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees or Chief Officers.
- 1.3 Effective Governance and Audit Committees help to raise the profile of governance, internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within an organisation, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors. They enhance public trust and confidence in the financial governance of an authority.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 To assist the Committee in ensuring that due consideration is given to all aspects of their core functions the proposed Forward Work Programme for 2024/25 is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Shown below are the items scheduled to be presented at the meeting on 21st October 2024.

Proposed Agenda Items – 21st October 2024	
1	Audit Wales Reports
2	Updated Forward Work Programme
3	Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement
4	Corporate Self Assessment Report

- 2.3** Committee Members are asked to endorse this schedule, confirm the list of people they would like to invite for each item (if appropriate), and indicate whether any additional information or research is required.
- 2.4** The schedule of items for discussion at specific meetings may be subject to change to take into account other items that need to be considered, and operational factors.
- 2.5** Audit Wales wrote to all Welsh authorities on 10 May 2024 setting out its timescales for audit work and giving a commitment that for those councils providing draft accounts by 30 June there would be certification by 30 November. Good progress is being made on the audit of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts but it is possible that 21 October will be a little early for their approval by this committee and an additional meeting will be required.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** If proper work programming procedures are not put in place, the organisation and prioritisation of the work programme is put at risk. The work of the Governance and Audit Committee could become disjointed which could undermine the positive contribution that the Committee makes to both short and long-term service improvement and the Council's Well-Being Objectives.
- 3.2** The Committee's Forward Work Programme contains audit reviews that will be service specific and will assist in understanding how those services undertake the five ways of working and deliver the well-being objectives.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** None as a consequence of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no resource implications as a direct consequence of this report.

Employment

5.2 None as a direct consequence of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 The provision of an adequate and effective Internal Audit function is a legal requirement under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 as amended from time to time. There are no equalities implications as a direct consequence of this report.

6. Background Papers

None

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25	Frequency	17 June 2024	18 July 2024	23 September 2024	21 October 2024	16 December 2024	17 February 2025	24 March 2025
Standing Items								
Audit Wales Governance and Audit Committee Reports	Each meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Updated Forward Work Programme	Each meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accounts								
Statement of Accounts 2023/24 (unaudited)	Annually		✓					
Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement	Annually				✓			
Financial Management Code	Annually							✓
Accounting Policies	Annually							✓
Lessons Learnt from the Accounts	Annually							✓
Governance								
Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/24	Annually		✓					
Internal Audit Reports								
Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24	Annually	✓						
Internal Audit Shared Service Charter	Annually	✓						
Internal Audit Annual Strategy and Audit Plan 2024/25	Annually	✓						
Internal Audit Progress Report	Quarterly			✓		✓	✓	
Recommendation Monitoring Report	Quarterly			✓		✓	✓	
Governance & Audit Committee Self Assessment	Annually			✓				
Treasury Management								
Treasury Management Strategy	Annually						✓	
Risk Assurance								
Corporate Risk Register	Quarterly		✓	✓		✓		✓
Counter Fraud								
Corporate Fraud Report 2023/24	Annually		✓					
Others								
Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report	Annually			✓				
Corporate Complaints 2023/24 Annual Report	Annually			✓				
Whistleblowing Policy & Performance Update	Annually					✓		
Corporate Self Assessment Report	Annually			✓	✓			