

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 20TH JANUARY 2021

“372 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS BILL PART 6 PERFORMANCE
AND GOVERNANCE OF PRINCIPAL COUNCILS – CONSULTATION RESPONSE
(REF) –

The report advised that Welsh Government (WG) were currently consulting on the statutory guidance (attached at Appendix A to the report) that described how the Council would be required to demonstrate compliance with the duties contained in Part 6 of the Bill. Cabinet had, on 21st December, 2020, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with any comments to be referred back to Cabinet for its consideration prior to the response being submitted. In referring specifically to the changes to Local Authority Audit Committees, Councillor Dr. Johnson enquired as to what thoughts, if any, there were on the WG’s intended outcomes with the proposed changes and that in his view Lay Members would need to be brought up to speed with the Council’s processes. This view was echoed by Councillor Carroll who commented that although it was recognised that there were benefits with having increased numbers of Lay Members on the Audit Committee (to be renamed Audit and Governance Committee under the Bill) initial training and regular refresher and up to date training would need to be provided it was acknowledged that robust recruitment processes and procedures would also be required.

Having considered the report, the Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Scrutiny Committee, although endorsing the consultation response, recommend to Cabinet that a robust recruitment and training process should be developed for the appointment of Audit and Governance Committee Lay Members.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the draft consultation response within the agenda and the role and positions of Lay Members on the proposed Audit and Governance Committee.”