

Meeting of:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 17 February 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Forward Work Programme 2024/25 & Draft 2025/26
Purpose of Report:	To provide Members with an updated Forward Work Programme for 2024/25 and a draft forward work programme for 2025/26
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 and a draft timetable for 2025/26 has been produced and is at Appendix A. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Committee considers and notes the draft Forward Work Programme for 2024/25 and a draft timetable for 2025/26.
2. That the Committee is asked to endorse the schedule of items for the next meeting on 24th March 2025 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. 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 In addition, at **Appendix B** is the proposed Governance and Audit Committee forward work programme for 2025/26.
- 2.3 Shown below are the items scheduled to be presented at the meeting on 24th March 2025.

Proposed Agenda Items – 24th March 2025	
1	Audit Wales Reports
2	Updated Forward Work Programme
3	Accounting Policies
4	Global Internal Audit Standards
5	Internal Audit Progress Report
6	Recommendation Monitoring Report
7	Limited Opinions - Follow Up
8	Corporate Risk Register

- 2.4** 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.
- 2.5** 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.

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

