

**Powys County Council
Governance and Audit Committee Template**

Committee:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	24 th November 2023
Subject:	Annual Governance Statement

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
James Langridge-Thomas	Deputy Head of Transformation and Democratic Services

2. Why is the Committee being asked to consider the subject?

To sign off the final Annual Governance Statement alongside the completed statement of accounts.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

Approve the final document for publication.

4. Key Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

Not applicable

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report	✓	Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan		Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan			
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships			

Key Impact (tick all that apply)

Policy Review		Performance	
Informing Policy Development		Evidence Gathering	✓
Risk		Corporate Improvement Plan	
Service Integrated Business Plan		Partnerships	
Pre-Decision Scrutiny		Finance / Budget	

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Governance and Audit Committee

24th November 2023

Report Author:	County Councillor James Gibson-Watt Portfolio Holder for Open and Transparent Powys
Lead Officer:	Catherine James Head of Transformation and Democratic Services
Report Title:	Annual Governance Statement
Report For:	Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To present the final version of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2022-23 for the approval of the Committee, alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts.

1.2 Once approved, this information will be published accordingly and shared with interested parties.

1.3 The AGS provides an account of the processes, systems, and records that the council has in place to demonstrate the effectiveness of its governance arrangements during the financial year. It is structured around the seven principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016 Edition).

2. Background

2.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places an obligation on local authorities in Wales to keep under review the extent to which it is fulfilling the 'performance requirements', meaning that:

- it is exercising its functions effectively
- it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively
- the extent to which its governance is effective for securing the above

2.2 Whilst the Council seeks to meet the majority of its duties via the Annual Self-Assessment report, the Annual Governance Statement provides the mechanism for assessing the Council's governance arrangements against the CIPFA principles.

2.3 The CIPFA Principles are used to assess good governance practices in the AGS:

- Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social, and environmental benefits
- Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- Principle E: Developing the organisation's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

- Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

2.4 This report has been shared with the Committee in draft format previously, and has been a collaborative process with members of Governance and Audit Committee, Cabinet, Senior Leadership Team and Executive Management Team to agree conclusions surrounding the Council's governance arrangements.

3. Advice

3.1 The Committee receives the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 and agrees for this to be approved alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 The Annual Governance Statement has been undertaken within existing resources, based upon a range of mechanisms including the Council's current Integrated Business Plans, Corporate Improvement Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Any actions identified for delivery are to be considered by the organisation, and to be embedded within Service's Integrated Business Plans as part of the Council's strategic planning cycle. Where resources are needed to support future actions, they will be identified as a pressure within the Councils Finance Resource Model.

4.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the resource implications above.

5. Legal implications

5.1 The agreement of the Annual Governance Statement allows for the Council to meet its requirements under a range of duties including the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and support the recommendations".

6. Data Protection

6.1 Not applicable

7. Comment from local member(s)

7.1 These reports impact with equal force across the whole County, and therefore comments have not been sought from individual Members.

8. Impact Assessment

8.1 An Impact Assessment (IA) is not required for this report as the report does not include any formal proposals or policy changes.

8.2. All actions within the report will be taken forward by responsible officers as part of the strategic planning process, which will have the relevant Impact Assessments as required as part of this process.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the **Committee considers the report presented here and satisfies itself that the relevant criteria have been met, and if satisfied** that the AGS provides an accurate account of the processes, systems, and records that the council had in place during 2022-23 and demonstrates the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, **then the Committee approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23.**

Contact Officer:

James Langridge-Thomas, Deputy Head of Transformation and Democratic Services

Tel: (01597) 826701

Email: james.langridge@powys.gov.uk

Head of Service: Catherine James, Head of Transformation and Democratic Services

Chief Executive: Emma Palmer