

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To report to the Committee the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's Appointed Auditor, Wales Audit Office (WAO).

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Appointed Auditor is required, under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 to provide to Members of the Council, a summary of the key messages from his statutory responsibilities and reporting responsibilities under the code.

2.02 The letter is required to be issued by 30th November each year.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Annual Audit Letter to Members of Flintshire County Council is attached.

3.02 The letter brings together key messages and relevant updates from:-

(a) The (unqualified) audit opinion on the financial statements for 2012/13 which was issued on 26th September 2012 and reported to the Audit Committee and Council on 25th September 2012.

(b) The Improvement Assessment letter to the Council dated October 2012, which was reported to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19th November 2012, Cabinet on 20th November 2012 and is included earlier on today's Audit Committee agenda.

3.03 The Annual Audit Letter will be incorporated into the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) which will be issued in the new year. However, as a stand alone document with a reporting date of end November, it is important to bring it to Members in this cycle.

3.04 A representative of WAO will be present at the meeting to present the annual letter.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to note the Annual Audit Letter to Members of Flintshire County Council.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None directly as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A – Annual Audit Letter to Members of Flintshire County Council

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Contact Officer: Kerry Feather
Telephone: 01352 702200
Email: kerry.feather@flintshire.gov.uk