

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2014**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**

SUBJECT: **WALES AUDIT OFFICE - ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT
OUTLINE 2013/14**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide the Audit Committee with the Wales Audit Office - Annual Financial Audit outline for the audit of the Council's accounts for 2013/14 and those of the Clwyd Pension Fund.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Under the provisions of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 the Auditor General is responsible for appointing external auditors (Appointed Auditors) to local government bodies.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 This Annual Financial Audit Outline has been prepared to meet the requirements of auditing standards and proper audit practices. It provides Flintshire County Council (the Council) with an outline of the financial audit work required for the 2013/14 financial statements. It has been prepared by John Herniman on behalf of the Appointed Auditor.

3.02 The Appointed Auditor is required by the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 to examine and certify the accounts of the Council, satisfying himself that the accounts:

- Give a true and fair view of the Council financial position
- Comply with all relevant legislative requirements; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

3.03 The Appointed Auditor is also required to:

- Satisfy himself that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and
- Certify that the audit has been completed in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

- 3.04 The outline for the Flintshire County Council element of the work is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.05 The outline for the Clwyd Pension Fund is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.06 A programme is being agreed with the Wales Audit Office for the annual audit which will commence in July.
- 3.07 The draft financial statements will be reported to the Audit Committee in July 2014.
- 3.08 The final audited accounts for Flintshire and the Clwyd Pension Fund will be considered by the Audit Committee for recommendation to Council before the deadline of 30th September 2014.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 The Audit Committee is requested to note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 26 to 28 of Appendix 1 at this time it is not possible to provide an estimate of the fee for 2013/14 financial audit work.
- 5.02 In addition to the main audit, the Auditor General is required to recover, in respect of each grant or return, an amount that covers the full cost of the relevant work undertaken in relation to the audit of grants.
- 5.03 The fees for the Clwyd Pension Fund work are charged directly to the Fund.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: "Financial Audit Outline Flintshire County Council"

Appendix 2: "Financial Audit Outline - Clwyd Pension Fund"

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

As Appendix 1 and 2.

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