

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 16 th March 2016
Report Subject	Wales Audit Office (WAO) Audit Plan 2016
Report Author	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

External auditors are required to carry out an audit to discharge their statutory duties as Auditor General and fulfil their obligations under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Local Government Act 1999, and the Code of Audit Practice.

The Wales Audit Office, being the Council's external auditor, has prepared an audit plan for 2016 for the Council and the Clwyd Pension Fund (attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to this report) which sets out their proposed audit work for the year along with timescales, costs and the audit teams responsible for carrying out the work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members note the WAO reports
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE WAO AUDIT PLAN
1.01	The 2016 Audit Plan for Flintshire County Council is attached at Appendix 1, and Clwyd Pension Fund at Appendix 2.
1.02	The Audit Plan for Flintshire County Council is a combined plan covering; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial audit of the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts • Certification of 2015/16 grant claims and returns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other audit work relating to North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee • Performance audit including annual improvement assessment
1.03	The draft financial statements will be reported to the Audit Committee in July 2016. A programme is being agreed with the Wales Audit Office for the financial audit of the draft accounts which will commence in July. 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 2016.
1.04	The improvement assessment work, combined with work on financial matters, also discharges the Auditors responsibility to satisfy that the audited body has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
1.05	WAO will issue their report summarising their work on certification of grants and returns 2014/15 in April 2016 which will be reported to the July Audit Committee.
1.06	Work to confirm the programme of performance audit work in 2016/17 continues for reasons outlined within the WAO report.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Proposed fees charged for the audit work for Flintshire County Council has been included in the WAO report at exhibit 5. Proposed fees charged for the audit work for Clwyd Pension Fund has been included in the WAO report at exhibit 3.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	All audit work is carried out on a risk based approach which is covered in detail within the WAO's reports.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - WAO 2016 Audit Plan Flintshire County Council Appendix 2 – WAO 2016 Audit Plan Clwyd Pension Fund

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Liz Thomas – Technical Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Financial Audit: The annual external audit of the Council’s Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April</p> <p>Material: A concept used to inform judgements regarding the accuracy of the Council’s Statement of Accounts. The basis could be quantitative with an assigned value or qualitative and affected by issues that are legal, regulatory, or politically sensitive.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts / Final Accounts / Financial Accounts or Statements: The Council’s annual finance report providing details of the Council’s financial performance and position at the end of the financial year. The format is prescribed to enable external comparison with other public and private entities.</p> <p>Wales Audit Office: works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p>