

## External Regulation – Reporting Protocol

**External arrangements** for regulation and assurance are provided by a number of statutorily appointed bodies such as the Audit Wales (AW), Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), plus a number of other external regulatory bodies.

Their role is independent of government and they examine various aspects of how Welsh public bodies work. For example AW carries out financial audits and examines how the organisation manages and spends public money, including achieving value in the delivery of public services. Other bodies such as Estyn focus on the quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

According to the role and remit of each body, they produce either periodic or annual reports on their findings. All formal reports which are specific to the Council are presented to the Cabinet and Governance and Audit Committee and considered by the various Overview and Scrutiny Committees as appropriate.

The roles are as follows:

- i) Cabinet – the Executive response
- ii) Overview and Scrutiny – scrutiny of and assurance with the response
- iii) Governance and Audit Committee – assurance of the arrangements.

Progress against the resultant action plans are also monitored by Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny. These action plans once agreed should be placed into the relevant forward work programmes. Some reports, such as the Annual Audit Summary Report are presented to the full Council.

National study reports published by AW are also considered by ourselves as to the relevance of the recommendations and responses made accordingly.

AW meets regularly with the Chief Executive to discuss the achievement of co-ordination and proportionality of external regulatory work, as well as the role that regulation can play in 'adding value' through supporting improvement.

**Internal arrangements** for co-ordinating regulatory activity is held by Governance (Performance and Risk Management Team). All external reports are to be shared with the Performance and Risk Management Team (if they have not already been sent direct from the external regulatory agency) and, agreement reached as to which Committee the report is to be presented. In addition a Council response should be prepared by the lead portfolio for presentation with each report. External Regulation is a standing item on monthly Performance Leads Meeting to ensure the protocol is being followed and coordination is effective.