

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **20 NOVEMBER 2012**

**REPORT BY:**       **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SUBJECT:**           **IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT LETTER FROM THE**  
                                  **AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To advise Members of the Council's Improvement Assessment Letter October 2012 from the Auditor General for Wales.
- 1.02 Members to note the report and receive and agree the Council's response.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 The Auditor General is required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to report any audit and assessment work which informs tangible judgement as to whether a Council has discharged its duties and met the requirements of the Measure.
- 2.02 This is the first letter that the Council will receive; the second one covering an assessment of both the Council's Improvement Plan and the Annual Performance Report. This second letter will also comment on compliance with the Measure in addition to reporting on the financial audit.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The letter summarises the Auditor General's views on:
- whether the Council has discharged its statutory duties in respect of improvement planning
  - the Council's compliance with requirements to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement, including the Council's progress on areas for improvement and recommendations identified in previous assessments
  - any relevant issues that may have emerged since the last Auditor General's report, including comments on how the Council is addressing financial challenges; and a brief summary of relevant regulators issued since the last report
  - any further proposals for improvement and/or recommendations
  - updates to the Wales Audit Office work plan and timetable

- 3.02 The full letter is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.03 The letter outlines developments since the last letter notably the housing ballot.
- 3.04 The Audit General has made no new proposals for improvement or recommendations in the letter.
- 3.05 However, as good practice, the Council always makes a full response. The response is attached at Appendix 2.

Both the letter and the Council's response were received by yesterday's Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will be presented to the Audit Committee meeting in December.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 To advise Members of the Council's Improvement Assessment letter received from the Auditor General for Wales.
- 4.02 Members to note the letter and receive and agree the Council's response.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The letter refers to the medium-term financial plan.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 The letter has no direct implication in relation to poverty.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 The letter has no direct implication in relation to environmental impact.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 The letter has no direct implication in relation to equalities.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 The letter refers to the Council's work on implementing Single Status.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 None required.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Senior officers have had input into this report.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1: The Auditor General's Improvement Assessment Letter (October 2012)

Appendix 2: The Council's response to the Auditor General's Improvement Assessment Letter (October 2012)

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

None

**Contact Officer:** Karen Armstrong  
**Telephone:** 01352 702740  
**Email:** karen\_armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk