

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2014**

**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 December 2013 from the Auditor General for Wales.
- 1.02 Members to note the report and agree the Council's Executive 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 second letter that the Council has received; the first one was reported to Cabinet in October 2013 and summarised the Auditor General's views on i) whether the Council had discharged its duties in respect of improvement planning; ii) the Council's compliance with requirements to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement, and; iii) updates to the Wales Audit Office work plan and timetable for delivering their Improvement Assessment work. There were no further recommendations or proposals for improvement.
- 2.03 This second letter covers an assessment of the Council's Annual Performance Report.

**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 reporting.
- 3.02 The full letter is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.03 The Audit General has made no new statutory recommendations or proposals for improvement.
- 3.04 As is good practice, the Council always makes a full response to issues raised within the letter. The response is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.05 Both the letter and the Council's response will be received by Cabinet next week and both will be presented to the Audit Committee meeting later this month.

#### **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 report and agree the Council's Executive response.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The letter has no direct implication in relation to finance.

#### **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 has no direct implication in relation to personnel issues.

#### **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 (December 2013)  
Appendix 2: The Council's response to the Auditor General's Improvement Assessment Letter (January 2014)

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

None

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