

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**           **ANNUAL REPORT ON EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS**

**1.00**   **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.00    To receive the first Annual Report detailing reports by external auditors, other regulators and inspectors.

**2.00**   **BACKGROUND**

2.01    The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 contains various provisions relating to the work of audit committees. Statutory guidance made under Section 85 of the Measure was issued in June 2012. That guidance advised that audit committees should receive and consider reports from external auditors, other regulators and inspectors.

2.02    At the first informal meeting between members of the Audit Committee and Chairs and Vice-chairs of Overview and Scrutiny held on the 22 February 2013, it was agreed that officers should put in place a process to monitor all reports issued by external auditors, regulators and inspectors. This to include details of which committees or other member fora such reports have been reported to.

2.03    Following that meeting officers put in place arrangements for such records to be maintained by the Policy & Performance Team within the Chief Executive's Department. Attached as Appendix 1 is a table detailing the reports issued during 2013 by various external regulators and inspectors, a short summary of the findings and the member bodies to which those reports have been reported and when.

**3.00**   **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01    Where a report by an external auditor, other regulator or inspector contains recommendations, it is important that those recommendations receive proper consideration by both officers and members and are responded to. The responses will, on occasions, require an action plan to implement changes and appropriate procedures need to be in place to oversee the implementation of such action plans.

3.02 It is part of the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee to ensure that effective processes are in place for setting and monitoring such action plans. Whilst the Audit Committee has the responsibility for ensuring all audit reports issued by the external auditor are implemented, for other reports the Committee's Terms of Reference make clear it is sufficient that it is satisfied that there are effective processes in place. These processes may, for example, include the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

3.03 Appendix 1 shows that all reports issued by the Wales Audit Office during 2013 have been reported to the Audit Committee. It also shows that all reports raising issues of non compliance issued in the first 10 months of the year have been reported to at least one member body. Arrangements are currently being made for the Estyn Report received in November to be considered by appropriate member fora.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 To note how reports by external audits, other regulators and inspectors have been dealt with in 2013.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None as a result of this report.

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

6.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 With officers in Policy and Performance team.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 With officers in Policy and Performance team.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 - table detailing reports issued during 2013.

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

Table of external regulators and inspectors maintained by Policy & Performance Team

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