

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **17th JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **WAO PERFORMANCE AUDIT REGULATORY
PROGRAMME 2014-15**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To report for acceptance the proposed Regulatory Programme for Performance Audit for the Wales Audit Office (WAO) for the period 2014-15.
- 1.02 To note the reduction in fees for the performance and financial audit work programme.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Auditor General for Wales is responsible for preparing a programme of work under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure), the Local Government Act 1999 and the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.
- 2.02 The letter from the WAO also identifies the fees for the performance audit work and financial audit work for 2014-15.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The programme of performance audit and assessment work is divided into two parts: i) WAO performance audit work 2014-15; and ii) Local Government studies.
- 3.02 The full programme is attached as the Wales Audit Office's letter at Appendix 1.
- 3.04 The main piece of work to be carried out in 2014-15 is the Corporate Assessment; a review of the Council's capacity and capability to deliver continuous improvement. This is to be undertaken as part of a four year rolling programme of assessments at all Welsh Councils. In North Wales, Conwy CBC was assessed as part of the first year of the programme in 2013-14; and during the second year of the programme, Ynys Mon is also being assessed.

The outcome of the Corporate Assessment will be a report that states

whether the Auditor General believes that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Measure.

- 3.04 The total fees for both the performance audit work and financial audit work have reduced from last year as shown in the table below, with the significant reduction in the performance audit work.

Fee April 2014 to March 2015	£	Previous year's fee
Fee for performance audit work	£104,058	£137,587
Fee for financial audit work	£ 216,366	£ 215,967
Total fee	£ 320,394	£ 353,554

The explanation for the decrease in total fees is set out in the Auditor General's letter (Appendix 2), although an element of reduced risk in performance work has also contributed to the reduction.

- 3.05 Separate programmes are published by the WAO for the auditing of the financial accounts and the pension fund. These are presented and considered by the Audit Committee.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 To accept the proposed Regulatory Programme for Performance Audit for the Wales Audit Office (WAO) for the period 2014-15.
- 4.02 To note the reduction in fees for the performance and financial audit work programme.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 This report details the regulatory fee allocation for 2014-15 for both the performance and financial audit and assessment work.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 There are no relevant anti poverty implications detailed in this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no relevant environmental implications detailed in this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 There are no relevant equality implications detailed in this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no relevant personnel implications detailed in this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 This report will be considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The Auditor General consulted local authorities on the programme of proposed Local Government Studies.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: Letter from the Wales Audit Office: 2014-15 Performance Audit Work and Fees (13.05.14)

Appendix 2: Letter from the Auditor General for Wales: Wales Audit Office Fees: Local Government (13.05.14)

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

None

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