

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2013-14 BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Members on the Council's Annual Improvement Report 2013-14 which will be published by the Auditor General for Wales and to note the Council's response.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Auditor General is required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to undertake an annual improvement assessment and publish an annual improvement report for all Welsh Councils, fire and rescue services and national parks.

2.02 This is the fourth Annual Improvement Report for Flintshire and it also contains the Appointed Auditor's Annual Audit Letter as previously reported to Audit Committee in December 2013.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Annual Improvement Report is publicised by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. It brings together, with the co-ordination of other inspectorates such as Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) a picture to summarise the audit and assessment work undertaken in the last year.

3.02 The full report is attached at Appendix 1.

3.03 The report builds on the work of the relevant Welsh inspectorates, as well as work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office over the last year.

3.04 Overall the Auditor General has concluded that:

- The Council made good progress against the improvement priorities we looked at and improved its overall performance against the national indicators

- The Council has taken action to strengthen its approach to performance evaluation, but further work is required to harmonise its improvement planning and performance reporting arrangements
 - The Council has enhanced its arrangements for planning and supporting improvement, but further action is required to provide the rigour necessary to cope with the challenges ahead
 - The Council is likely to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2014-15.
- 3.04 The Auditor General has made no formal recommendations or proposals for improvement.
- 3.05 The Council, as is practice, makes a formal public response to any findings within the report. The Council's response to the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) is included at Appendix 2.
- 3.06 This Annual Improvement Report has been developed and improved with input from senior officers at the Council to ensure accuracy, fairness and validity.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 To advise Members of the Council's Annual Improvement Report 2013-14 published by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 4.02 Members to note the report and the Council's response.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 This report refers to the financial resourcing of the council's priorities.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 This report refers to how the council is helping to reduce poverty.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 This report refers to how the council is improving the environment.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 Safe and supportive communities are referred to within the report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 The People Strategy is referred to in the report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None required at this stage.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Senior officers have had input into this report. The Annual Audit Letter was presented to the council's Audit Committee in December 2013.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: WAO Annual Improvement Report 2013 - 14
Appendix 2: WAO Annual Improvement Report - Executive response

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

None

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