

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2015**

REPORT BY: **INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER AND WALES AUDIT OFFICE**

SUBJECT: **PROTOCOL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To present to Members the updated Protocol between Internal Audit and the Auditor General for Wales (and the Wales Audit Office).

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 Part of the role of the Audit Committee within the Constitution is to keep under review the joint working arrangements of the Council's internal and external auditors. Cooperation between the Internal Audit team and the Auditor General and his auditors benefits them both and the Council as a whole.

2.02 A Protocol between them has been in existence since 2011. A review has taken place to ensure it is up to date, reflects current practice, and forms the basis of the cooperation between them.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 As the external auditor, the Auditor General's objective is to carry out an audit which discharges his statutory duties and fulfils his obligations under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure), the Local Government Act 1999, and the Code of Audit Practice. The Code requires auditors to liaise effectively with any internal audit functions in line with international auditing standards.

3.02 Internal Audit operate according to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and associated Local Government Application Note. These replaced the CIPFA Code of Practice in 2013. The Application Note states that 'The CAE (Chief Audit Executive – in Flintshire the Internal Audit Manager) should seek to meet regularly with the nominated external audit representative to consult on and coordinate their respective plans and, particularly, to discuss how work can be tailored to satisfy each party's responsibilities in areas of common interest. Such meetings are an opportunity to discuss matters of

mutual interest and to help develop both parties' understanding of the organisation'.

3.03 This Protocol enables both requirements to be met.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The committee is requested to accept the Protocol as the basis for the ongoing cooperation between the internal and external auditors.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Joint Protocol between External Audit and Internal Audit

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: David Webster
Telephone: 01352 702248
Email: david.webster@flintshire.gov.uk