

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 25 th January 2017
Report Subject	Wales Audit Office (WAO) - Annual Audit Letter 2015/16
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) have issued their 'Annual Audit Letter' – Appendix 1. The letter summarises the key messages arising from the Auditor General for Wales' statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, and reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice for the financial year 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members note the WAO's Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER
1.01	Attached at Appendix 1 to this report is the WAO's Annual Audit Letter.
1.02	The letter was issued by the required date of 30 th November and is published for Members information.
1.03	The letter summarises the key messages arising from the Auditor General for Wales' statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice. In the main it relates to the WAO's work in auditing the Council's 2015/16 Statement of Accounts reported in detail to the Committee in September 2016.
1.04	In previous years an accounts action plan to address the issues highlighted

	by the WAO during the financial audit has been reported to the Committee. Whilst there were issues raised in the WAO's report, the issues were service specific and have been referred to the relevant committees for tracking. The issues were not accounting issues and therefore we can confidently report that there is no need to produce an accounts action plan this year.
1.05	WAO and Council Officers have now had the joint Post Project Learning meeting referred to in the WAOs letter, which identified areas where both organisations could learn from this year's experiences, and make improvements for the future. Regular meetings to take any of the more minor issues forward and to start preparations for future challenges are planned.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	No resource implications as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	No specific risks as a direct result of this report requiring mitigation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – WAO Annual Audit Letter

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Liz Thomas – Technical Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	Financial Audit: The annual external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts. Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April Material: A concept used to inform judgements regarding the accuracy of

the Council's Statement of Accounts. The basis could be quantitative with an assigned value or qualitative and affected by issues that are legal, regulatory, or politically sensitive.

Statement of Accounts / Final Accounts / Financial Accounts or Statements: The Council's annual finance report providing details of the Council's financial performance and position at the end of the financial year. The format is prescribed to enable external comparison with other public and private entities.

Wales Audit Office: works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.