

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 19 th September 2019
Report Subject	Annual Improvement Report of the Auditor General for Wales 2018/19
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Improvement Report (AIR) summarises the audit and regulatory work undertaken at the Council by the Wales Audit Office since the last report was published in November 2018.

Overall the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. *“The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement but, as with all councils in Wales, it faces challenges going forward.”*

No formal recommendations have been made during the year.

There are a number of new voluntary proposals for improvement arising from two of the reviews undertaken by the Wales Audit Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To be assured by the Auditor General for Wales’ Annual Improvement Report for 2018/19.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	The Annual Improvement Report
1.01	The Auditor General under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Measure) undertakes and publishes an annual improvement report for all Welsh Councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities.
1.02	This is the ninth Annual Improvement Report for Flintshire. This year's report is a summary of the audit, regulatory and inspection work carried out in 2018/19.
1.03	Overall the Auditor General has concluded that: <i>"The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement but, as with all councils in Wales, it faces challenges going forward."</i>
1.04	The Auditor General has not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply.
1.05	<p>There are a number of new voluntary proposals for improvement in two of the reviews undertaken, namely; "Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations - Examination of The Green Council: maximising the recovery and recycling of waste" and "Local government use of data local report".</p> <p>The proposals for improvement are contained in the Appendix and the embodied link.</p> <p>As part of our established protocol, all proposals for improvement from regulatory reports (both local and national) are assessed to establish if further improvements need to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Council's response to these proposals for improvement is contained within Appendix 2.</p>

2.0	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications as part of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>Cabinet have received this report and endorsed the Council response. They will continue to receive future reports relating to external regulatory work as part of their Forward Work programme.</p> <p>Audit Committee have received this report as part of their assurance work in September.</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Findings from the Wales Audit Office are risk managed as part of regular monitoring.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1: Annual Improvement Report June 2019</p> <p>Appendix 2: Proposals for Improvement and the Council's response</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Karen Armstrong, Corporate Business and Communications Executive Officer</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702740</p> <p>E-mail: karen.armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Annual Improvement Report: 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 input of other inspectorates such as Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW), a summary of the regulatory work of the past year.</p>
7.02	<p>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.</p>