

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 11 th February 2021
Report Subject	Annual Audit Summary for Flintshire County Council 2019/20
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Audit Summary is in place of the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) and the Annual Audit Letter. The report summarises the audit and regulatory work undertaken at the Council by Audit Wales since the last report was published in July 2019.

Overall the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. *“The Auditor General certified that the Council has met its legal duties for improvement planning and reporting and believes that it is likely to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 during 2020-21.”*

No formal recommendations have been made during the year.

There are a number of new proposals for improvement and proposals of development arising from the reviews undertaken by Audit Wales.

The Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council’s financial statements on 14 September 2020, in line with the statutory deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To be assured by the Auditor General for Wales’ Annual Audit Summary Report for 2019/20.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT
1.01	The Auditor General under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Measure) undertakes and publishes an annual summary report for all Welsh Councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities.
1.02	This is the first Annual Audit Summary Report for Flintshire, combining Annual Improvement Report and Annual Audit Letter. This year's report is a summary of the audit, regulatory and inspection work carried out in 2019/20.
1.03	Overall the Auditor General has concluded that: <i>"The Auditor General certified that the Council has met its legal duties for improvement planning and reporting and believes that it is likely to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 during 2020-21."</i>
1.04	The Auditor General has not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply.
1.05	There are a number of new proposals for improvement and/or proposals for development in three of the reviews undertaken, namely; "Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) Examination - an examination of the well-being objective to protect and enhance the natural environment," "Household Recycling Centres" and "Digital Flintshire Review". As part of our established protocol, all proposals for improvement and development from regulatory reports (both local and national) are assessed to establish if further improvements or developments need to be undertaken. The Council's response to these proposals for improvement is to be shared at March's meeting detailing the reports and responses.
1.06	The outcomes of the financial sustainability study have been taken into account in the planning of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. An executive response for the Household Recycling Centres local study was provided to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2020. The outcomes of the Digital Review have been taken into account in the planning of our Digital Strategy.
1.07	The summary outlines the key findings from the audit of the Council's financial statements for 2019/20, reported in detail to Audit Committee in September 2019, and other audit work undertaken in 2019/20. The Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 14 September 2020, in line with the statutory deadline

2.00	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 will receive this report to agree the executive response. They will continue to receive future reports relating to external regulatory work as part of their Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>The Annual Audit Summary was presented to Audit Committee in January. The committee were assured of the Auditor General for Wales' Annual Audit Summary Report for 2019/20.</p>

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT														
4.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with sustainable development principles. Audit Wales have not identified any formal recommendations relating to the way the Council implements the sustainable development principles.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with Well-being goals and taking steps to meet their own well-being objectives. Audit Wales have not identified any formal recommendations relating to the way the Council implements the well-being goals.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> </tr> </table> <p>Council's Well-being Objectives</p> <p>Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. These are under review as part of a refresh of Council Plan 2021/22.</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Findings from the Audit Wales are risk managed as part of regular monitoring.</p>	Long-term	Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with sustainable development principles. Audit Wales have not identified any formal recommendations relating to the way the Council implements the sustainable development principles.	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with Well-being goals and taking steps to meet their own well-being objectives. Audit Wales have not identified any formal recommendations relating to the way the Council implements the well-being goals.	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Cohesive Wales	Vibrant Wales	Globally responsible Wales
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Annual Audit Summary 2019/20

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Jay Davies, Strategic Performance Advisor Telephone: 01352 702744 E-mail: jay.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Annual Audit Summary: The Annual Audit Summary is publicised by Audit Wales (AW) on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. It brings together, with the input of other inspectorates such as Estyn and the Care and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), a summary of the regulatory work of the past year.</p> <p>Audit Wales: 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>