

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 21 September 2017
Report Subject	Annual Improvement Report of the Auditor General for Wales
Report Author	Chief Executive

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 July 2016.

Overall the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. *“The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement”*.

No formal recommendations have been made during the year.

There are four new voluntary proposals for improvement.

An executive response to the reviews is set out.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To be assured by the Auditor General for Wales’ Annual Improvement Plan for 2016/17 and support the executive response to the Annual Improvement Report.
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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 seventh Annual Improvement Report for Flintshire. However, the format is different from previous years in that it is a summary of the audit, regulatory and inspection work carried out in 2016/17.
1.03	Overall the Auditor General has concluded that: <i>“The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement”</i> .
1.04	The Auditor General has not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply. There are 4 new voluntary proposals for improvement.
1.05	The Council’s response to the four proposals for improvement is attached as Appendix 2.

2.0	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Resource implications have been considered during preparation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and will continue to be monitored during the regular budget monitoring and financial planning arrangements.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee will be considering this report as part of their Forward Work programme.

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	Appendix 1: Annual Improvement Report September 2017 Appendix 2: Flintshire’s executive response

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

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>Corporate Assessment: In 2013/14 the Wales Audit Office (WAO) began a new four year cycle of Corporate Assessments of improvement authorities in Wales. An in-depth Corporate Assessment reports on the Council's track record of performance and outcomes as well as the key arrangements necessary to underpin improvements in services and functions. Flintshire's first Corporate Assessment was conducted in late 2014 and the report on its outcomes was included in the Annual Improvement Report published in March 2015.</p>
7.03	<p>Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.</p>
7.04	<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>