

External Regulation – Reporting Protocol

External arrangements for regulation and assurance are provided by a number of statutorily appointed bodies such as the Wales Audit Office (WAO), Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), plus a number of other external regulatory bodies.

Their role is independent of government and they examine various aspects of how Welsh public bodies work. For example the WAO carries out financial audits and examines how the organisation manages and spends public money, including achieving value in the delivery of public services. Other bodies such as Estyn focus on the quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

According to the role and remit of each body, they produce either periodic or annual reports on their findings. All formal reports, also known as local reports, which are specific to the Council are presented to the Cabinet and Audit Committee and considered by the various Overview and Scrutiny Committees as appropriate.

The roles are as follows:

- i) Cabinet – the Executive response
- ii) Overview and Scrutiny – scrutiny of the response
- iii) Audit Committee – assurance of the arrangements.

Progress against the resultant action plans are also monitored by Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny. Some reports, such as the Annual Improvement Report are presented to the full Council.

National study reports published by the WAO are also considered as to the relevance of the recommendations and responses made accordingly.

The WAO meets regularly with the Chief Executive to discuss the achievement of co-ordination and proportionality of external regulatory work, as well as the role that regulation can play in ‘adding value’ through supporting improvement.

Internal arrangements for co-ordinating regulatory activity is held by Chief Executive’s (Corporate Business and Communications Team). All external reports are to be shared with the Team (if they have not already been sent direct from the external regulatory agency) and, agreement reached as to which Committee the report is to be presented to. In addition a Council response is to be prepared by the lead portfolio for presentation with each report.