

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 10 February 2022
Report Subject	Annual Audit Summary for Flintshire County Council 2020/21
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Audit Summary sets out the the audit and regulatory work undertaken by Audit Wales of Flintshire County Council. It provided an update on the previous report which was published in was published in January 2021.

Overall the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. *“The Auditor General certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2020-21, as saved by an order made under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.”*

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 has provided an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council’s financial statements on 29 September 2021, two months ahead of the statutory deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To be assured by the content and observations of the Auditor General for Wales’ Annual Audit Summary Report for 2020/21.
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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 second Annual Audit Summary Report for Flintshire County Council, combining the Annual Improvement Report and Annual Audit letter. This year's report is a summary of the audit, regulatory and inspection work carried out in 2020/21.
1.03	Overall the Auditor General has concluded that: <i>“The Auditor General certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2020-21, as saved by an order made under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.”</i>
1.04	The Auditor General has not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply.
1.05	There are two proposals for improvement from one of the reviews undertaken, namely; “Rental Income.” Cabinet adopted the proposals for improvement at a meeting in October 2021. 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 the meeting in March 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.
1.07	The summary outlines the key findings from the audit of the Council's financial statements for 2020/21, reported in detail to Audit Committee in September 2021, and other audit work undertaken in 2020/21. The Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 29 September 2020, two months ahead of 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 for endorsement. They will continue to receive future reports relating to external regulatory work as part of their Forward Work programme.</p> <p>Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive this report as part of their scrutiny role in February.</p> <p>Governance and Audit Committee will receive this report as part of their role of assurance in March.</p>

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with sustainable development principles and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement <p>Well-being Goals Impact Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are complying with Well-being Goals and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The Well-being Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More equal Wales • Cohesive Wales • Vibrant Wales • Globally responsible Wales <p>Council's Well-being Objectives Audit Wales assess if Public bodies are taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. These were reviewed as part of a refresh of Council Plan for 2021/22.</p> <p>Risk Management Findings from the Audit Wales are risk managed as part of regular monitoring.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Annual Audit Summary 2020/21

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

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

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>