



## AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT - PROGRESS UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on progress against the Council action plan that was set up in response to the recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office in their Annual Improvement Report (AIR) January 2012.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 As the Council met its statutory requirements for 2011/2012, the regulators made no statutory recommendations for improvement but included some recommendations where they thought improvement could be made. The AIR was presented to Audit committee with the Council's response on the 7th March 2012. This report is a follow up on progress made against that action plan.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Wales Audit Office AIR is based on how the Council's Improvement Objectives are set (in accordance with 2009 Local Government Measure) and the progress that is being made as against them as set out in the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 When the recommendations for improvement were received, some of those recommendations were very general making it difficult to identify what specifically was required to improve.
- 4.2 In order to finalise an action plan for improvement, discussion was held with the regulators to understand why certain recommendations followed by a written request for clarity. The regulators responded on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and we have been able to update part of the action plan from some of their responses.
- 4.3 Most of the actions focus on what should be published and the Council's October Performance Report will address some of the suggestions.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 No specific Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this report, however the Local Government Measure 2009 cites fairness and accessibility as part of a definition of what 'Improvement' means. Equalities issues are therefore fundamental to the consideration of setting Improvement Objectives on which the AIR is based.

5.2 Achieving the aims of the Corporate Improvement Plan will benefit every member of the county borough's communities, regardless of their individual circumstances and needs.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications of this report although it is worth note that External Audit fees will be reduced if they can be assured and place reliance on the organisation's own ability to monitor and challenge itself to improve.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications of this report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 There have been no consultations that have not been included in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee note the contents of this report and monitor the progress against the attached action plan.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To ensure members are aware of progress the Council's action plan and have an opportunity to monitor and challenge its content.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Action Plan Progress Update of WAO Annual Improvement Report 2011/12