



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 11TH DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: DATA QUALITY REVIEW

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Auditor General for Wales, as part of their programme of works for the year 2012-13 has issued (October 2013) the findings of his review of the council's data quality.
- 1.2 This report to Audit Committee summarises the conclusions of the Auditor General's assessment and also makes recommendations for future monitoring of delivery of any proposals for improvement flowing from the review.
- 1.3 Members have a critical role to play in evaluating Regulator reviews and in particular understanding what difference such reviews make to improvement of services for our citizens. They also have a clear role in monitoring progress in achieving report recommendations from the wide range of reviews undertaken.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Review headlines that:

- The Council has data validation arrangements in place which it is continuing to improve but these need to be consistently applied and embedded across the organisation.
- The Council has continued to improve the development of more outcome-based measures but the basket of evidence being used is still limited.
- The Council has good systems in place to produce performance indicator data, but the consistency of application is mixed.
- Two performance indicators at the Council were qualified with a further two indicators qualified across Wales due to issues with data provided nationally by external bodies, not due to the Council's processes.

2.2 The Auditor General has concluded the Review by making 2 Proposals for Improvement. They are:

P1: the Council should address the areas for improvement identified from our audit relating to individual indicators, specifically to consider:

- Whether a 12-month rolling average, which was used for a social services indicator we reviewed, is the most useful basis to assess current performance during the year. When reported to scrutiny during the year, the period of measurement should be made clear.
- Whether there is an alternative way to measure performance of the anti-social behaviour process in a simpler and more intuitive way.

P2: The Council should ensure that its data validation processes are consistently and robustly applied across the organisation. Intrinsic to this is the need to have clear definitions in place for all local measures, and for the Council to undertake detailed checking to ensure that calculations are fully compliant with these definitions.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 Service Improvement is key to delivering council priorities.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Director believes the Regulator's proposals and any subsequently agreed Action Plan should be monitored by the following route:

	For Decision	For Monitoring	Final Sign Off on completion
Corporate Management Team (CMT)			
Cabinet			
Scrutiny (state which)			
Audit committee			
Council			
Responsible officer only	P1	P2	March 2014

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Local Government Measure defines fairness and access as one of the criteria that constitutes 'improvement' within the Wales programme for Improvement 2009.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultees that have not been included in the overall report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee approves the programme of monitoring detailed in paragraph 4.1 of this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure Regulator reviews are appropriately managed and monitored across the Authority.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Measure 2009, Wales Programme for Improvement 2010.

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Background Papers: Data Quality Review -WAO