



## **COUNCIL – 6TH OCTOBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT BY WALES AUDIT OFFICE**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER**

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

- 1.1 To inform members of the content of the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) and to advise members on the monitoring process for progressing all proposals for improvement recommended or suggested by the Wales Audit Office (WAO).

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report presents the WAO AIR, which is the regulators summary of CCBC's performance against our statutory duty for 2014/2015. This report is to inform members of how the Council monitors and tracks proposals that are made for improvement by WAO so members can have assurance a robust process is in place for following up on the suggested improvements.

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

- 3.1 2009 Local Government Measure puts a duty on an authority to 'make arrangements to continuously improve'. These arrangements and their effectiveness are assessed by the WAO with the results published within the AIR.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Council receives three improvement 'outputs' a year from WAO, one provides feedback on the Improvement Objectives that we set for the year ahead and asks if we complied with the legislation in producing them, the second is a report which looks back at our performance for the previous financial year and the third and final is the AIR which summarises all the regulator work and their findings throughout the year.
- 4.2 As the AIR is a public document summarising other reports throughout the year, any recommendations for improvement made previously are already known and have already been reported to Corporate Management Team and Audit Committee documented in a register.
- 4.3 The process adopted is that when an Improvement Report is received (in draft) it is sent to Corporate Management Team initially to view the proposals and take a view on whether the proposals are value adding.
- 4.4 Once feedback is given and the report is finalised the recommendations for improvement are recorded in one of two registers – the Improving Governance Board Register or the general Regulator Register.

- 4.5 Actions to address the recommendations or proposals with named officers and dates of completion are recorded in both registers.
- 4.6 The progress against both registers is reported to CMT and to Audit Committee, with the last update being provided to Audit Committee 10 June 2015.

The headline within the attached report recognises that:

*“Based on the work of the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General considers that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure during 2015-16”*

- 4.7 There are no new recommendations for improvement. The report notes that the recommendation made in January regarding making a lawful decision on the annual leave and essential car user allowances has now been addressed.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group who fall under one of the protected characteristics or wider issues as shown in the Council’s Strategic Equality Plan.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications to this report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no consultations that have not been included within this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Council endorse the AIR and the process for routine monitoring of any outstanding proposals.

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

- 10.1 The Council has a statutory duty to implement actions from the local government measure and consider guidance for ways in which to do this. The AIR is the public report, which tells the public if the council has complied and how well it has done so, therefore it is important Council has opportunity to question content from the AIR and gain assurance that a monitoring process is in place to make any agreed improvements.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Chris Burns - Interim Chief Executive

Colin Jones - Head of Performance and Property  
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Dave Street – Corporate Director Social Services  
Councillor David Hardacre – Cabinet Member Performance and Property

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Improvement Report 2014/2015