



COUNCIL – 22ND NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT BY WALES AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the content of the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) 2015-16 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 Regulator's summary of CCBC's 2015/2016 performance against our statutory duty under the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009. This report is to inform members of how the Council monitors and tracks proposals for improvement that are made by Regulators so members can have assurance a robust process is in place for following up on recommendations or suggested improvements

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Although the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been introduced and replaces Part 1 of the 2009 Local Government Measure, Part 2 is still a legal requirement and this part 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 and summaries of other Regulator work summarised within the AIR.
- 3.2 The findings contained within the WAO AIR inform the Authority's ability to contribute to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Additionally, some of the content and judgements are linked to areas that do support the national Well-being goals (see para 5.1) for example The Welsh Language Commissioner's evaluation of Caerphilly's performance contributes to 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 We receive three 'outputs' a year from WAO, one provides feedback on the Council's Well-being Objectives that we set for the year ahead and asks if we complied with the legislation in producing them, the second is a letter that 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 received throughout the year, any recommendations or suggestions for improvement made are already known and have already been reported previously to Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and the Audit Committee with any actions to improve documented in a register.

- 4.3 The process adopted is 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. WAO have added a new protocol this year to formally ask authorities if they agree with the proposals for improvement that are being made.
- 4.4 Once feedback is given and the report is finalised the recommendations or proposals for improvement are recorded in a general Regulator Register. Actions to address them with responsible officers and dates by which they will be done by are also recorded.
- 4.5 The progress against the register is reported to CMT and to Audit Committee, who challenge and monitor progress. The next update is due to Audit Committee 14th December 2016.
- 4.6 The headline within the attached report states that: *“Based on and limited to the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General believes that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure during 2016-17”*
- 4.7 The Auditor General has made no formal recommendations or suggestions for improvement within the AIR on behalf of the WAO.
- 4.8 However, for accuracy the report does repeat 3 areas for improvement that were made earlier in the year by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) as part of their own annual review. These areas for improvement are mainly to continue working on the areas that were put on the register earlier in the year.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 As noted in 3.2 the areas that WAO have assessed for performance, contribute to a number of the Well-being Goals, for example:

Content in Report	Page No	Well-being Goal
Estyns Evaluation of Schools	Page 10	A prosperous Wales
CSSIW Annual Review and Evaluation of performance	Page 11	A healthier Wales and a more equal Wales
Welsh Language Commissioner evaluation of Caerphilly County Borough Performance	Page 12	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Review of Leisure	Page 12	A healthier Wales and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Review of Waste and Recycling	Page 13	A resilient Wales and a globally responsible Wales.
Financial control	Page 16	Connected to all goals as underpins ability to deliver towards goals
Gwent Frailty Programme	Page 18	A healthier Wales and a more equal Wales

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Its aim is to make public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

The arrangements that the authority has in place for continuous improvement are considered within the AIR and will strengthen our ability to address these ways of working.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications to this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members note the content and endorse the AIR arrangements for monitoring improvements via the Audit Committee.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The AIR is the public report, which tells the public if the council has complied with its statutory duties and how well it has done, 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.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Measure 2009 (Part 2). Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

Author: Ros Roberts - Corporate Performance Manager, roberr@caerphilly.gov.uk
Consultees: Nicole Scammell - Acting Director Corporate Services and Section S151 Officer
Chris Burns - Interim Chief Executive
Rob Hartshorn - Head of Public Protection
Christina Harry – Corporate Director Education & Community Services
Dave Street – Corporate Director Social Services
Kathryn Peters – Corporate Policy Manager
Colin Jones – Head of Performance and Property
Councillor David Hardacre – Cabinet Member Performance and Property

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Improvement Report 2015-16