



AUDIT COMMITTEE – 17TH OCTOBER 2017

SUBJECT: WAO REPORT – SAVINGS PLANNING (CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

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- 1.1 The report, which was presented to Cabinet on 5th July 2017, presented the Wales Audit Office (WAO) report on its savings planning assessment of Caerphilly CBC.
 - 1.2 In recent years the WAO has carried out financial resilience assessments of all Councils in Wales and the latest review undertaken between June and December 2016 focussed on the extent to which the Council achieved its 2015/16 savings plans, the quality of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and the robustness of savings plans for 2016/17.
 - 1.3 The WAO report detailing the findings of this latest review was issued in March 2017 and overall the report concluded that the Council has an effective and improving savings planning approach, which is supporting future financial resilience. Cabinet were pleased to note that the WAO report acknowledged that this is an improving picture.
 - 1.4 The WAO report contained one proposal for improvement, which is to strengthen financial planning arrangements by ensuring that savings plans are underpinned by robust business cases. In response to this, officers have developed a new template to capture detailed information on future savings proposals.
 - 1.5 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:-

- (i) the content of the WAO Report – Savings Planning (Caerphilly County Borough Council) be noted
 - (ii) the Officer response to the WAO proposals for improvement as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be noted.
- 1.6 Members of the Audit Committee are asked to note the WAO Report – Savings Planning (Caerphilly County Borough Council).

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Appendix:
Report to Cabinet dated 7th June 2017