



CABINET – 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2016-17

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report issued at the end of August 2017 outlines the key messages from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Improvement Report (AIR). The AIR makes a judgement as to whether we have and are likely to comply with our statutory duty in compliance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to 'make arrangements to demonstrate continuous improvement'.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This AIR is two-fold. It summarises the work carried out by the WAO during the year of 2016/17 and provides the regulators judgement as to whether we will comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. For 2016/17 the WAO judgement is:

"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 (2009) during 2017-18 providing it responds constructively and in a timely way to our statutory recommendations" [Para 3 of appendix A]

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Although the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been introduced and replaces Part 2 of the 2009 Local Government Measure, Part 1 is still a legal requirement and this part places a duty on an authority to 'make arrangements to continuously improve'. These arrangements and their effectiveness are assessed by the WAO.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As noted in 2.1 the WAO judgement is that "The Council is likely to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement providing it responds constructively and in a timely way to our statutory recommendations"
- 4.2 The report then summaries the three statutory recommendations that are made with regard to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and this report is on the Cabinet Work Programme for the 1st November 2017.
- 4.3 The report details in exhibit 1 a brief description and conclusions to a range of work carried out in 2016/17. This includes a review completed in August 2017 called IT and Asset Management. There were no specific recommendations or proposals for improvement but the work has led the WAO to plan a review of effectiveness of the way the Council's manages its

projects through the Business Improvement Board as part of their 2017/18 local work. The IT and Asset Management Review are reported on in more detail in a separate report which is also on the Cabinet Work Programme for 1st November 2017

- 4.4 Individual reports received are reported to members throughout the year and the AIR is a summary of those pieces of work.
- 4.5 In November 2016 the Wales Audit Office carried their annual assessment of performance and concluded that the Council had complied with its statutory improvement reporting duties and issued a certificate. The Certificate of Compliance (Appendix 1) and Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16 was reported to the Audit Committee on the 8th March 2017.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Its aim is to make public bodies listed in the Act to think more about the long term, working better with communities and each other. It is about preventing problems and taking a more joined-up approach. The arrangements we have in place to comply with the Act are progressing well and are reported on to a range of audiences, including the member led Future Generations Advisory Panel.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not needed because there are no 'protected characteristics to consider 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 The report is noted by members and the content discussed (where required) with the WAO when they come to present their findings.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The AIR is the public judgement of the regulators on the Authority. It is important Cabinet are aware of its judgements and have the opportunity to discuss the context further.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 1). Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

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Consultees: Nicole Scammell - Acting Director Corporate Services and Section S151 Officer
Rob Hartshorn - Head of Public Protection
Councillor Barbara Jones – Cabinet Member Performance
Kathryn Peters – Corporate Policy Manager

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Annual Improvement Report 2016-17