



AUDIT COMMITTEE 15TH OCTOBER 2019

SUBJECT: ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2018/19

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached report (Appendix 1) issued at the end of July 2019 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 whether we are likely to comply with our statutory duty in compliance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to 'make arrangements to secure continuous improvement'.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This AIR is two-fold. It summarises the work carried out by the WAO during the year 2018/19 and provides the regulators judgement as to whether we will comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. For 2018/19 the WAO judgement was:

"The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement and is at a crucial pivotal point in its ambition to transform"

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 2019-20"

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee comment on and approve the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1, prior to its presentation at Cabinet on the 16th October 2019.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To allow Audit Committee to consider the Annual Improvement Report prior to its presentation at Cabinet.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 As noted in 2.1 the WAO judgement is that "The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement and is at a crucial pivotal point in its ambition to

transform”

- 5.2 The report notes in paragraph 7 that “*During the course of the year, the Auditor General did not make any further formal recommendations. However, we have made a number of proposals for improvement and these are repeated in this report. We will monitor progress against them and relevant recommendations made in our national reports (AIR Appendix 3) as part of our improvement assessment work*”.
- 5.3 Page 6 onwards of the AIR gives a brief summary of the work reported on in 2018/19.
- 5.4 The AIR notes, at page 15, that the Council complied with its duty for Improvement Planning and Reporting, through our published Well-being Objectives, and our assessment of performance in the Annual Performance Report for the year 2017/18. No proposals for improvement were made. The WAO provided confirmation certificates that these duties were met and these were received by Audit Committee as information items on 24th July 2018 and 29th January 2019.
- 5.5 Individual reports received are reported to members throughout the year and the AIR is a summary of those individual outputs.

5.6 **Conclusion**

At the end of 2018/19 we can demonstrate that “***The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement and is at a crucial pivotal point in its ambition to transform***”

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions in this report.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

8. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 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 joined-up approach.

The arrangements we have in place to comply with the Act are reported to a range of audiences and made available on the council’s website.

9. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening has been conducted and it has been determined that an assessment is not needed as this report relates to a document published by the WAO.

10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 This report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

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

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Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Councillor Barbara Jones – Interim Leader & Cabinet Member for Performance
Steve Harris – Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Kathryn Peters – Corporate Policy Manager
Deborah Gronow – Audit Group Manager

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Annual Improvement Report 2018/19