

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 21 May 2014

**Lead Member / Officer: Barbara Smith – Lead Member for Modernising & Performance
Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit**

Report Author: Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit

Title: Internal Audit Annual Report 2013-14

1. What is the report about?

This report provides the Committee with the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2013-14 that provides the Head of Internal Audit's overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk and control during the year that informs the 'annual governance statement'.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the 'chief audit executive' to deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that the organisation can use to inform its governance statement. This Committee's terms of reference require it to consider the annual report of the internal auditors.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee considers and comments on the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and overall 'opinion'.

4. Report details

The Internal Audit Report 2013-14 is included as Appendix 1 and shows:

- that the Head of Internal Audit has provided 'medium assurance' in the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment, including its arrangements for governance and risk management;
- there are no qualifications attached to the Head of Internal Audit's 'opinion';
- the level of work that Internal Audit carried out to arrive at this overall 'opinion';
- how Internal Audit complies with the PSIAS; and
- a summary of Internal Audit's good performance during the year.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Although this report has no direct contribution to the Corporate Priorities, there is no decision required.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no costs attached to this report, as it is information only.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

This report does not require a decision or proposal for change, so there is no impact on people who share protected characteristics.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

There is no requirement for consultation on this report, as it provides the Head of Internal Audit's independent and objective 'opinion'.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications attached to this report, as it is information only.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no risks attached to this report, as it is information only.

11. Power to make the Decision

There is no decision required for this report but there is a requirement under the local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 for the 'audit committee' to review and assess the Council's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and to oversee the Council's internal audit arrangements.