

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 23rd March 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill

Report Author: Richard Weigh, Chief Finance Officer

Title: WAO Report Financial Resilience Assessment

1. What is the report about?

A Wales Audit Office have completed an assessment of the council's 'financial resilience' following on from national study published last year.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To present a WAO national study report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To consider the report and the recommendation made.

4. Report details

The report by the Auditor General for Wales titled 'Financial Resilience Assessment Denbighshire County Council' is attached.

The assessment was completed during the period May to October 2015, and followed up issues highlighted in the 2014-15 financial position work. The focus of the work was on the delivery of 2014-15 savings plans, and the 2015-16 financial planning period.

The report concludes that the Council has appropriate financial management arrangements in place. The one recommendation is to establish a formal policy on income generation and charging and a register of the charges set by departments. This will be addressed as part of the 17/18 budget process.

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

Robust financial planning, control and governance arrangements underpin the delivery of the council's corporate priorities.

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

Not applicable to this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

Not applicable to this report.

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

Not applicable to this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The report provides a positive assessment of the council's financial arrangements. The council's policy on fees and charges is set out in Financial Regulations and has been included in annual budget rounds. This will be enhanced as part of the 17/18 process and departmental registers maintained.

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

The study outlines risks and recommendations at a national level.

11. Power to make the Decision

Report produced under the Public Audit Wales Act 2004 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.