

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	<b>Councillor Brian Jones Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment / Tony Ward Head of Highways, Facilities &amp; Environmental Services</b>
<b>Report author</b>	<b>Wayne Hope, Flood Risk Manager</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act in Relation to Flood Risk Management in Denbighshire</b>

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 In October 2018 the Wales Audit Office commenced an examination of the extent to which the Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle, seven well-being goals and five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Wales Audit Office issued a report of its findings in June 2019.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1 To provide information regarding a report by the Wales Audit Office on the Council's approach to flood risk management and compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act's sustainable development principle and 5 well-being goals.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1 That the Committee considers and comments on the findings of the Wales Audit Office's examination, in particular, the Council's response to the suggested opportunities for improvement identified by the Wales Audit Office.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1 The Wales Audit Office report, titled "Well-being of Future Generations: An examination of 'work to reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire' – Denbighshire County Council" is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 In the introduction to its report, the Wales Audit Office states that "*The Council is taking promising action to act in accordance with the sustainable development*

*principle when taking steps to reduce the risk of flooding but needs to consider its next steps to further embrace the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.”*

- 4.3 The report is structured to include a summary report, a detailed report and an appendix. The summary report and appendix are self-explanatory and won't be considered further by this report. The contents of the detailed report are discussed below.
- 4.4 Part 1 of the detailed report records the examination findings, including what the Wales Audit Office looked for, what the Wales Audit Office found and the opportunities for improvement that were identified. The examination considered all of the Council's activities in relation to 'work to reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire', in the context of the five ways of working set out in the Well-being Act. Reassuringly, the Wales Audit Office found strengths in each area of activity.
- 4.5 Part 2 of the detailed report sets out in tabulated form the Council's response to the suggested opportunities for improvement. All of the opportunities for improvement identified by the Wales Audit Office are addressed by the Council's responses. The action responses are expressed by the Wales Audit Office using information provided by the Council rather than reproducing the Council's responses verbatim. Nevertheless, all of the opportunities for improvement laid out in the Wales Audit Office report will be incorporated into the Council's activities going forward.

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

- 5.1 One of the Council's corporate priorities for 2017 to 2022 is to provide an attractive and protected environment, supporting wellbeing and economic prosperity. One of the measures identified in the Corporate Plan to enable this is to reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire. The Wales Audit Office report has identified a number of opportunities for improvement in the way that the Council carries out this measure.

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

- 6.1 The Wales Audit Office report is about activities that the Council already carries out. There is a possibility that the opportunities for improvement that the Wales Audit Office has identified could result in the Council incurring additional costs, but equally there could be cost savings. Overall, the changes in costs are likely to be minimal.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required. This is because this report is about the Wales Audit Office's observations of the Council's current activities and suggested opportunities for improvement, and the Council's response to these observations. This report is not, specifically, making a recommendation that the Council changes its activities or the way it goes about them. Any new activities that are developed as a result of this report will be impact assessed.

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

8.1 The presentation of this report is the first opportunity to consult with the Communities Scrutiny Committee. In carrying out its examination, the Wales Audit Office consulted with officers of the Council, including members of the Senior Leadership Team. The Wales Audit Office also consulted with officers in the Welsh Government's Water and Flood Division.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 Not required.

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

10.1 There is a reputational risk (low) to the Council in the event that it decides to disregard the opportunities for improvement set out in the Wales Audit Office report.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

Coast Protection Act 1949

Land Drainage Act 1991

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Section 7 of the Council's Constitution sets out Scrutiny's powers with relation to this matter