

<b>Report to</b>	Corporate Governance Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	17 March 2021
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	David Wilson, Audit Wales
<b>Report author</b>	Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Assets.
<b>Title</b>	Audit Wales' Audit Plan 2021-22

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

1.1. Audit Wales's Audit Plan for 2021-22.

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

2.1. To inform Corporate Governance of the key topics that Audit Wales will cover in their work on Denbighshire County Council in 2021-22.

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

3.1. That Corporate Governance notes the plan and has the opportunity to ask questions to understand the context and the focus for the proposals.

## **4. Report details**

4.1. Ahead of each financial year Audit Wales issues an audit plan for the areas that it will focus on for each local authority. The plan is developed in conjunction with Denbighshire County Council and is focused on high risk areas. The plan was recently discussed with SLT on 11 February. Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales were also present at that meeting.

4.2. The attached Audit Plan sets out the audit areas, namely:

- Financial Statements (a statutory function of Audit Wales). Details of the scope of this area of work can be found on pages 6-10 of the attached.
- Performance Audit, to include focus on our Financial Position; Covid-19

Recovery Planning; responding to the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and our Carbon Reduction Plan. See p11-12 more detail.

- 4.3. The in-year timing detail has yet to be worked out, but Audit Wales will inform Denbighshire County Council of it plans through regular meetings with the Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation. It should be noted that the plan is flexible, acknowledging that it is subject to the risk of Covid-19 impacting on timescales.
- 4.4. All reports on the above topics will be shared with Corporate Governance & Audit Committee as they are available.

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

- 5.1. Audit Wales work will cover some of the Corporate Priorities (e.g. Environment) and, more generally, the effectiveness of financial and performance controls at Denbighshire County Council.

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

- 6.1. The proposed fee is £306,638 (see p14 for detail).

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

- 7.1. This is a report on a work plan by an external organisation, therefore a well-being impact assessment is not required.

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

- 8.1. This has been discussed with SLT, when Audit Wales, Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales were present as a regulatory group to discuss areas of risk in the Council to enable development of this plan.

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

- 9.1. The annual audit is a statutory provision. The fees are an existing budget commitment for the authority.

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

10.1. There are no risks associated with this plan.

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

11.1. No decision required. This report is for information purposes.