

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 11 July 2012

Lead Officer: Alan Smith, Head of Business Planning & Performance

Report Author: Tony Ward, Corporate Improvement Team Officer

Title: Wales Audit Office Regulatory Programme for Performance Audit 2012-13

1. What is the report about?

The report presents the Regulatory Programme for Performance Audit 2012-13 for the Wales Audit Office (WAO).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the performance audit work that will be carried out at Denbighshire County Council by the WAO during 2012-13.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members consider the regulatory programme, attached at Appendix I, and raise any issues or queries with the WAO who will be in attendance to present to programme.

4. Report details.

This regulatory programme outlines work to be delivered by and on behalf of the Auditor General under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure), the Local Government Act 1999 and Parts 2 and 3A of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. It summarises: the planned activity for 2012-13; roles and responsibilities of relevant WAO staff; and fees for the Auditor General's performance audit work.

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

Much of the performance audit work relates directly to the council's Corporate Priorities and Corporate Plan, both in terms of reflecting on our success in delivering the Corporate Plan 2009-12, and our approach to developing the Corporate Plan 2012-17. For example, the programme includes the annual audit of the council's published improvement plan (i.e. Corporate Plan) and self-assessment of performance (i.e. annual review of performance against our Corporate Plan).

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

The proposed WAO fee for performance audit work in 2012-13 is £120,880 (plus VAT), as detailed in Appendix 4 to the Regulatory Programme.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The draft regulatory programme was discussed with relevant officers, including the Head of Business Planning & Performance and Corporate Improvement Team Manager, before being approved by the Chief Executive.

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

The outputs from performance audit work include reports from regulatory bodies (such as the WAO), and “the risk of a significantly negative report(s) from external regulators” is identified as a risk on our Corporate Risk Register. Our Corporate Performance Management Framework is the main control in place to manage this risk, and the following actions have been identified as being required to further reduce the residual risk:

- Develop a more formal framework for co-ordinating self-assessments to support regulatory activities.
- Implement new approach to target setting (as agreed by SLT) for 2012-13 Service Plans.
- Deliver performance management training for new Members (including target setting)

9. Power to make the Decision

This is a paper for information, rather than for decision.