

<b>Report to</b>	Governance & Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	06 March 2024
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cyng / Cllr Gwyneth Ellis / Bob Chowdhury – Chief Internal Auditor
<b>Report author</b>	Bob Chowdhury – Chief Internal Auditor
<b>Title</b>	Partnership update for Denbighshire County Council

## 1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report provides an update for Governance & Audit Committee on Internal Audit's latest progress in terms of its service delivery, assurance provision, reviews completed, performance and effectiveness in driving improvement.

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

- 2.1. To provide information on the work carried out by Internal Audit during the last six months around partnerships arrangements within the Council. This report will allow the Committee to understand the different partnership arrangements that are in place and the risks associated with the different type of partnership arrangements. We have currently not completed a full list of partnerships as this information is not readily available. However, once we have completed the exercise, the next stage will be to test how robust and effective the partnerships are at delivering the services.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the content of this report and agrees a timescale for completing stage one around producing an accurate partnership list.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1. The Governance and Audit committee requested the Chief Internal Auditor to carry out an exercise around gathering information on the number and different types of partnership arrangements within the Council.
- 4.2. The starting point for this piece of work has been to meet with each HoS to discuss what partnership arrangements they have within their service. This task has not been straightforward as five of the nine HoS are new in post. The new HoS have been spending time meeting staff and discussing how their service currently operates.
- 4.3. Our initial checks have confirmed that there are a number of different types of arrangements within the Council that can be considered as a partnership arrangement. The list below identifies the different types:
- A formal partnership arrangement is where the service will have a contract in place;
  - An informal partnership arrangement is where the service may have a written agreement in place;
  - Alternative Service Model (ASM), is where there is a detailed contract in place that goes through how the third party will provide the service;
  - The Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with Flintshire County Council around how the North East Wales Archiving Service will be delivered;
  - We have a Single Access Route to Housing partnership in place with two North Wales local authorities and six housing associations;
  - There are several North & Mid Wales working together partnerships in place.
- 4.4. During the next six months internal audit will work closely with each service to identify and record the number of partnerships in place together with the type of partnership, value of partnership, key contacts within the partnership, duration of the partnership and any key performance indicators that are in place to measure the performance of the partnership.

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

5.1. There is no decision required with this report. There is no direct contribution to Corporate Priorities, but some partnerships may be around Corporate Priority areas and will provide assurance on their delivery.

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

6.1. Not applicable – there is no decision or costs attached to the report.

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

7.1. Not applicable – this report does not require a decision or proposal for change.

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

8.1. Not required

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

9.1. There are no financial implications attached to this report.

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

10.1. The risk to the Council around partnerships arrangements could result in the Council receiving a poor service, that does not provide value for money and ultimately could have been performed to a higher standard if left in-house.

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

11.1. Not applicable – there is no decision required with this report.