

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 27 February 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Barbara Smith / Alan Smith

Report Author: Tony Ward

Title: WAO Improvement Assessment Letter

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This paper presents the latest Improvement Assessment Letter for Denbighshire County Council, issued by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on 28th January 2013. The letter is attached at Appendix I.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. This report provides information regarding the latest WAO Improvement Assessment Letter for Denbighshire County Council. This is one of the key external regulatory reports received by the council each year.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the committee consider the report, including the two new proposals for improvement on page 7 of the Improvement Assessment Letter.

4. Report details.

- 4.1. The Improvement Assessment Letter reports the conclusions of the Auditor General for Wales from his audit and assessment work in relation to whether the Council has discharged its duties and met the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. More detailed work on the council's arrangements to support performance management and performance reporting is currently taking place, and the Auditor General will summarise all of this work (and that of other relevant regulators during 2012-13) when he publishes an Annual Improvement Report for the Council by the end of March 2013. This Annual Improvement Report will be presented to the committee on 10th April 2013.

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

- 5.1. The report does not require a decision.

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

- 6.1. There is no cost implication associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

7.1. There is no requirement for an equality impact assessment as this report will not result in a decision which will result in any change for staff or the community. It will therefore not have a disproportionate negative impact on people who share particular protected characteristics.

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

8.1. A draft of the Improvement Assessment Letter was presented to the Chief Executive, and feedback provided, prior to the letter being finalised. The Improvement Assessment Letter was also presented for information to the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 21st February 2013.

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. Not applicable.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1. The report does not require a decision.