

**Report To:** Corporate Governance Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 22 May 2013

**Lead Member / Officer:** Cllr Barbara Smith / Alan Smith

**Report Author:** Tony Ward

**Title:** Annual Improvement Report: Denbighshire County Council

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

- 1.1. This paper presents the latest Annual Improvement Report for Denbighshire County Council, issued by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in May 2013. The report is attached at Appendix I.

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

- 2.1. This report provides information regarding the latest Annual Improvement Report for Denbighshire County Council. This is the key external regulatory report received by the council each year.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. It is recommended that Members consider the report and highlight any issues of concern or that require further clarification by the Wales Audit Office (who will be represented at the meeting).

**4. Report details.**

- 4.1. Each year, the Auditor General must report on how well Welsh councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks are planning for improvement and delivering their services. Drawing on the work of the relevant Welsh inspectorates, as well as work undertaken on his behalf by the Wales Audit Office, this report presents a picture of improvement over the last year. The report is in three main sections, which cover, for the most part, Denbighshire County Council's (the Council) delivery and evaluation of services in relation to 2011-12, and its planning of improvement for 2012-13.
- 4.2. Overall the Auditor General has concluded that: the Council is making good progress in delivering its improvement programme but there is scope to improve the quality of some of the performance measures and evidence the Council uses to judge its effectiveness.
5. The Auditor General has made no new recommendations this year. However, the report does set out the progress the Council is making to address the recommendations and proposals for improvement made in previous reports.

**6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

6.1. The report does not require a decision.

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

7.1. There is no cost implication associated with this report.

**8. 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.**

8.1. 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.

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

9.1. A draft of the Annual Improvement Report was presented to, and discussed with, the Chief Executive, and feedback was provided prior to the report being finalised. The Annual Improvement Report will be presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee in June 2013 (as it focusses on performance issues) and also to Council in June 2013 as it is a key report for the authority.

**10. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

10.1. Not required.

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

11.1. The Corporate Risk Register contains all the significant corporate risks which, if they were to occur, may impact on the ability of the council to delivery continuous improvement.

**12. Power to make the Decision**

12.1. The report does not require a decision.