

<b>Report to</b>	Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Julie Matthews (Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities) / Gary Williams (Corporate Director- Governance and Business)
<b>Report author</b>	Helen Vaughan-Evans (Head of Corporate Support Services- Performance, Digital and Assets) / Catrin Roberts (Head of Corporate Support Services- People)
<b>Title</b>	Audit Wales Report: Arrangements for Commissioning Services – Denbighshire County Council

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

- 1.1. This report summarises the Audit Wales Report of Arrangements for Commissioning Services in Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and provides Officers' responses to recommendations for improvement.

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

- 2.1. To ensure Committee are kept informed of and able to scrutinise observations and actions following an external audit of Denbighshire County Council.

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

- 3.1 That Committee consider the report (Appendix 1), the associated recommendations and the Council's management response (Appendix 2), providing feedback as appropriate.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1. In July to August 2024 Audit Wales undertook a review of Denbighshire County Council's arrangements for commissioning services and specifically the extent to

which this has been developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle; and that it will help to secure value for money in the use of the Council's resources. The full report is included in Appendix 1.

- 4.2. Audit Wales are undertaking this work at each of the 22 principal councils in Wales and, as well as reporting locally to each council, also intend to produce a national report.
- 4.3. Commissioning is the process by which the Council designs services it intends to deliver. It starts with defining the service and the desired outputs and outcomes and ends when the Council organises its method of delivery. For example, by establishing a delivery team internally, or through procuring an external supplier. This audit did not cover procurement arrangements or the Council's contract management arrangements.
- 4.4. The final DCC report was issued in December 2024 and reached the overall conclusion that *the Council has set out clear expectations of departments when commissioning services, but the Council does not have arrangements in place to ensure that these are consistently met.*
- 4.5. The report goes on to make 2 recommendations for improvement. Appendix 2 provides the management response to Audit Wales's recommendations for improvement.

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

- 5.1 Commissioning well can support the delivery of all 6 Corporate Plan Themes. Having mature commissioning arrangements contributes in particular to the Well Run, High Performing Council Theme and builds on improvement recommendations from the Panel Performance Assessment.
- 5.2 The impact of commissioning on the Council's Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030 goals will vary depending on the specific circumstance.

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

- 6.1. There are no costs arising directly from this report.

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

7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

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

8.1 Report findings and areas of improvement have been discussed within the Corporate Support Services (CSS) section- CSS- People, CSS- Performance, Digital and Assets and Finance and Audit.

## **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. There are no additional risks arising from this report.

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

11.1 No decision is required.