

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	12/02/18
Lead Officer	Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Performance)
Contact Officer	Shân Morris
Subject	Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report 2016/17



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To present to members the report from the Auditor General for Wales reviewing the Authority's performance and arrangements. The Annual Improvement Report (AIR) provides a summary and assessment by the Auditor General and other regulators throughout the period 2016/17.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 Based on, and limited to, the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General believes that the Authority is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 Members are asked to note the annual improvement report.

BACKGROUND

- 4 The Auditor General is independent of government, and is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. The Auditor General undertakes his work using staff and other resources provided by the Wales Audit Office, which is a statutory board established for that purpose and to monitor and advise the Auditor General. The Wales Audit Office is held to account by the National Assembly.
- 5 Together with appointed auditors, the Auditor General audits local government bodies in Wales, including unitary authorities, police, probation, fire and rescue authorities, national parks and community councils. He also conducts local government value for money studies and assesses compliance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

INFORMATION

- 6 In determining the breadth of work undertaken during the year, the Wales Audit Office considered the extent of accumulated audit and inspection knowledge as well as other available sources of information including North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's own mechanisms for review and evaluation. For 2016/17, the Wales Audit Office undertook improvement assessment work at all authorities including improvement planning and reporting. At some authorities, this work was supplemented with local risk-based audits, identified in the Audit Plan for 2016/17.
- 7 The annual improvement report makes the following recommendations:
- Strengthen asset management arrangements by:
- P1 Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities for decision making for asset management and within the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.
 - P2 Agreeing common measures with the other Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities to assess key indicators around land and buildings to enable comparison of performance and the identification of developing trends.
- 8 Previous proposals for improvement are highlighted at pages 8 to 10 of the report.
- 9 Recommendations by the Wales Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser are highlighted on page 11.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	Recommendation P2 could potentially contribute to reducing the environmental impact of the Authority's buildings.
Budget	Recommendation P2 could potentially contribute to identifying financial savings.
Legal	The AIR reflects the Authority's duty under the Local Government Measure 2009 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions.
Staffing	None identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	None identified.
Risks	No risks of non-compliance identified as the report concludes that the Authority is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2017/18.