

SUBJECT: STAGE 2 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15 CERTIFICATE AND FEEDBACK FROM WALES AUDIT OFFICE

MEETING: Audit Committee

DATE: 30th June 2016

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Audit Committee with the Wales Audit Office certificate of compliance and feedback on the Council's assessment of performance 2014/15 contained in the Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2014/15 published in October 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Audit Committee receive the Wales Audit Office certificate and feedback for consideration in future improvement planning.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Monmouthshire County Council has a duty to publish an assessment of its performance annually in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. The Wales Audit Office certificate, Appendix 1, confirms the council has discharged its duties to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan in accordance with statutory requirements and issued the certificate of compliance for the 'Audit of Monmouthshire County Council's 2015-16 Improvement Plan'.
- 3.2 To supplement this Wales Audit Office have provided a more detailed feedback presentation, Appendix 2, that summarises the key questions analysed to produce the certificate and provides a commentary to help further improve the quality of improvement planning arrangements.
- 3.3 In the Stage 2 Improvement plan 2014-15 we responded to the areas for improvement identified by WAO as part of the issuing of the certificate for the previous evaluation of performance in October 2014. This included being clearer on the criteria for assessing the overall performance of each improvement objective, how this is informed by the weight of evidence reported and improving the links between some measures and actions. The certificate and presentation demonstrates that improvements in planning have been made but further improvements could still be considered particularly focused on enhancing the ease of understanding in some areas of the plan.

- 3.4 The areas identified to consider for further improvement will be reviewed as part of the council's review of performance in 2015/16 that will be published in the Stage 2 Improvement Plan by October 2016. 2016/17 is likely to be the last year that we produce the Improvement Plan in its current format. During 2016-2017 Monmouthshire County Council will undertake two substantial assessments of need and wellbeing within the County as a consequence of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. The information that is gained during this work will provide a much deeper evidence base to inform the publication of the council's wellbeing objectives by 31st March 2017. In the meantime we will continue to produce Improvement Objectives in line with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 while continuing to consider how we will build in our responsibilities under this legislation to our improvement planning.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the authority makes arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and is able to maximise its contribution to delivering the council's priorities of education of young people, support for vulnerable people; enterprise and job creation and maintaining locally accessible services.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council, [How we performed 2014/15](#) - Improvement Plan Stage 2.

6. REPORT AUTHOR

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