

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
9 February 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Graham Breeze
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Engagement
and Regulatory Services

REPORT TITLE: Audit Wales Annual Audit Summary 2020

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out to inform Cabinet of the Audit Wales audit summary for the Council. The summary contains information about the work completed since the last Annual Improvement Report, which was issued in January 2020.

2. Background

2.1 As part of the Auditor General for Wales' duties the Auditor is required to complete the following duties:

- Audit of Accounts Each year the Auditor General audits the Council's financial statements to make sure that public money is being properly accounted for.
- Value for money The Council has to put in place arrangements to get value for money for the resources it uses, and the Auditor General has to be satisfied that it has done this.
- Continuous improvement The Council also has to put in place arrangements to make continuous improvements, including related plans and reports, and the Auditor General has to assess whether the Council is likely to (or has) met these requirements.
- Sustainable development principle Public bodies need to comply with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The Auditor General must assess the extent to which they are doing this.

3. Advice

3.1 It is advised that Cabinet note the contents of the report set out in appendix one.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the Annual Audit letter. The findings in relation to the Audit of the Councils 2019/20 were included in the Audit of Accounts (ISA 260) Report issued by the auditor general and considered by the Audit Committee as they approved the Statement of Accounts in September. Any action arising from the report is being addressed in this year's closing of accounts process.
- 4.2 The findings from the Financial Sustainability Report have been presented to various forums across the Council. Improvements are being made to strengthen our financial resilience, through member development, the Integrated Business Planning Transformation Project and Finance Transformation work. Our work will be supported by the further work being undertaken by Audit Wales over the coming months.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal : The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: " I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Comment from local member(s)

6.1 N/A

7. Integrated Impact Assessment

7.1 N/A

8. Recommendation

8.1 That Cabinet considers and notes the contents of the Audit Wales audit summary in Appendix one and the findings of Audits conducted in Powys during 2020.

Contact Officer: Emma Palmer
Tel: 01874 612217
Email: emma.palmer@powys.gov.uk

Head of Service: Emma Palmer, Head of Transformation and Communications

Corporate Director/CEO: Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive Officer