

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	3 OCTOBER 2019
TITLE	GWYNEDD COUNCIL ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2018-19
PURPOSE	PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL
AUTHOR	GERAINT OWEN, HEAD OF CORPORATE SUPPORT
CABINET MEMBER	COUNCILLOR DYFRIG SIENCYN COUNCIL LEADER
RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPT THE REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 2018-19 Gwynedd Council Annual Improvement Report by the Auditor General summarises the audit work undertaken in the Council by the Wales Audit Office since the publication of the last report in March 2018.
- 1.2 It should be noted that this report is not a full review of all the Council's arrangements or Services.
- 1.3 On the basis of the work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office and other regulators, the Auditor General states whether or not the Council is likely to make arrangements to ensure continuous improvement for 2019-20.
- 1.4 In the opinion of the Auditor, "The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement" whilst adding "based on, and limited to, the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General believes that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2019-20".
- 1.5 The Report states that the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations to improve but he did make some proposals for improvement as noted in the report.
- 1.6 Officers from the Wales Audit Office will give a presentation on the key points to the Council.
- 1.7 There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions to Wales Audit Office officers in relation to the Report's content.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to accept the Report.

STATUTORY OFFICERS' COMMENTS

Monitoring Officer

I note that the Audit Office has not found it necessary to make formal improvement recommendations to the Council. In the light of the challenges facing the Council, which the report acknowledges this is a positive message.

Head of Finance

You will note the work programme resulting from the risk and assurance assessment. We will co-operate with the auditors as they carry out this work.

The attention given to financial aspects in Indicator 1 on page 6 of the report, and in the Annual Audit Letter in Appendix 2, reflects mainly on the audit of the 2017-18 accounts. By now, the Audit and Governance Committee have scrutinised and approved the 2018-19 accounts and the relevant report from Deloitte Auditors on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. Whilst the financial information here is historical, it is an encouraging general overview and I believe that this situation remains acceptable, although of course we are planning for the financial challenge that each local authority could face in the medium term.