

**My Ref:** AUD/IA/JB  
**Date:** 08 June 2016

Councillor Rod McKerlich (Chair)  
Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff, CF10 4UW



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Dear Councillor McKerlich

**Re: Delivering with Less: Leisure Services**

At its meeting on the 22 March 2016, the Audit Committee received the Wales Audit Office's national report 'Delivering with Less: Leisure Services'. The report was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, which sought to identify the current position and some indicators of good practice.

WAO's comments and recommendations cover the following areas:

1. Public sector ownership and management of leisure provision is changing with the transfer of services and assets to other models of operation, however, decisions have not always been based on robust information
2. Despite a reduction in facilities, budgets, staff numbers and council subsidy for leisure services, the continued impact of austerity presents a risk to the continued provision of services
3. Councils are meeting rising demand for leisure services, but scrutiny and oversight of performance is not always effective

The report concluded that council approaches to delivering leisure services focus on addressing immediate financial challenges, rather than taking a longer-term strategic approach to future provision.

The Audit Committee felt it important to bring the report to the attention of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, to provide it with an opportunity to consider the WAO report as part of its scrutiny of ADM's. The WAO report contains an End-to-End Options Appraisal Flowchart relating to ADM's, which you may find of interest.

I have included with this letter a copy of the WAO report, along with an Audit Committee report prepared by Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Arundale**  
**Chair of Audit Committee**  
**City of Cardiff Council**

Enc: WAO National Report - Delivering with Less: Leisure Services  
Report of Corporate Director Resources

cc: Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Nathan Swain, Principal Scrutiny Officer

**PLEASE REPLY TO:** C/O Internal Audit, Room 345a, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW. Tel: (029) 2087 2809  
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