

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2017

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO 2016/17 STATUTORY IMPROVEMENT
REPORT**

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM: 6.2

Reason for this Report

1. To present to the Audit Committee the Council's Progress Report on the Statement of Action agreed by Cabinet in March 2016 in response to the Wales Audit Office's February 2016 Corporate Assessment Follow On Report.
2. To allow Audit Committee to consider the progress made.

Background

3. In autumn 2015, the Wales Audit Office undertook a Follow On to their 2014 Corporate Assessment. The findings of this work were published in February 2016 in their Corporate Assessment Follow On Report.
4. The Follow On Report contained one Recommendation: "The Council must ensure that it addresses the proposals for improvement as set out in this report to deliver improved outcomes within the next 12 months"

Cardiff Council Response

5. In response to this recommendation, the Council developed a Statement of Action (Appendix A) that detailed how the Council would address the findings of the Follow On Report.
6. In addition to the Recommendation, the Follow On Report also contained 14 Proposals for Improvement, spread across four areas of the Council's activity: Leadership and Management; Governance; Performance Reporting; Corporate Enablers.
7. The Council's Statement of Action is therefore structured around these Proposals for Improvement.

Reason for Report

8. The Council's Statement of Action Progress Report (Appendix B) details the work that has been undertaken in response to the findings of the WAO's Follow On report.
9. The Statement of Action has now been completed, with any outstanding work due to be incorporated into the Council's business as usual activity. This approach has been agreed with the Wales Audit Office.

Wales Audit Office Local Work

10. As part of its 2016-17 work programme for Cardiff Council, the Wales Audit Office undertook a range of fieldwork in spring 2017 centred on understanding how successful the Council had been in addressing the Proposals for Improvement contained within the Corporate Assessment Follow On Report.
11. In addition to this work, the Wales Audit Office also considered the Council's progress updates on its Statement of Action.
12. At the conclusion of this activity, the Wales Audit Office issued the report "Can the Council demonstrate sufficient progress in meeting proposals for improvement made in February 2016?" (Appendix C).
13. The main finding of this report is "The Council can demonstrate sufficient progress in implementing the 2016 proposals for improvement and is in the process of embedding new performance management and reporting arrangements, but a decline in the proportion of staff completing mandatory training in information confidentiality and data protection needs to be resolved".

Legal Implications

14. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. To note the Council's progress against the Statement of Action.

CHRISTINE SALTER
CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES
18th September 2017

The following appendices are attached

- Appendix A: Cardiff Council Statement of Action in Response to WAO Follow On Report – March 2016
- Appendix B: Cardiff Council Statement of Action Progress Report – July 2017
- Appendix C: WAO Report: Can the council demonstrate sufficient progress in meeting proposals for improvement made in February 2016? – Cardiff Council – September 2017