
**WALES AUDIT OFFICE (WAO)- REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT
THE CAPITAL AMBITION DELIVERY PROGRAMME**

Reason for the Report

1. To receive the report from the Wales Audit Office following their review of the Council's Capital Ambition Delivery Programme as attached at **Appendix 1**.

Background

2. In 2017 the Cabinet approved 'Capital Ambition', the administration's 5 year policy programme for the Council. These priorities have been translated into the Council's Corporate Plan for 2018-21, called Delivering Capital Ambition. The Council has also aligned partnership planning and delivery arrangements behind the delivery of key areas of Capital Ambition that require strategic partnership working.
3. Cabinet approved the establishment and implementation of the four-year Capital Ambition Delivery Programme on 14 December 2017. The Capital Ambition Delivery Programme comprises two components: Modernisation and Resilient Services. Modernisation is defined as: transformation of corporate systems and processes that support service delivery and Resilient Services is defined as: transformation of front-line services, typically working in partnership with other organisations, with local communities and with those who receive the service.
4. The Capital Ambition Delivery Programme has been developed to address the key financial and organisational challenges of the Council which include :
 - deliver high levels of savings;
 - manage demand pressures, particularly in the area of social services; and

- satisfy the Council’s priorities as stated in ‘Delivering Capital Ambition’.
5. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) undertook a review of The WAO chose to carry out this review over a number of months, September 2018 to March 2019, in order to observe the governance arrangements in practice.
 6. The Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee has responsibility within its Terms of Reference for scrutiny of the Strategic Programmes. In March and April 2019, the Committee reviewed the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme and the progress being made in respect of the Modernisation and Resilient Services Portfolios.

Issues

7. The WAO review is shown at **Appendix 1** to this report which identifies a number of Proposals for improvement

P1	The Council needs to strengthen the role of scrutiny in engaging with, and challenging the delivery and impact of, the Programme to increase accountability and help provide momentum.
P2	The Council would benefit from a review of the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme management arrangements alongside others that support delivery of the Corporate Plan such as the Directorate Delivery Plans.
P3	The Council could do more to assess the extent to which the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme is contributing to the achievement of the Council’s £91m savings target and make links to the medium term financial plan.

Way Forward

7. The following representatives will be in attendance to provide information and respond to any concerns that the committee members may have:
 - *Sara Jane Byrne, (WAO – Local Government Performance Audit Manager)*
 - *Ian Phillips, (WAO – Local Government Performance Auditor)*
 - *Samantha Clements, (WAO – Local Government Performance Auditor)*
 - *Cllr Huw Thomas, (Leader of the Council)*
 - *Cllr Chris Weaver, (Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance)*
 - *Christopher Lee, (Corporate Director, Resources)*
 - *Dean Thomas (Portfolio Manager, Capital Ambition Delivery Programme)*

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

17. The Committee is recommended to:
- a. consider the information provided at this meeting; and
 - b. determine whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet Member for consideration; and

c. consider the requirements for further scrutiny of this issue.

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance & Legal Services
01 May 2019