

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Item No:

**Subject** **Wales Audit Office Certificate of Compliance**

**Purpose** To present Cabinet with the Certificate of Compliance issued by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) following an audit of the council's Improvement Plan 2015-16,

**Author** Debra Wood-Lawson, Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** As part of the programme of regulatory activity the Auditor General has issued the council with a Certificate of Compliance following an audit of the Improvement Plan 2015-16. This is the first of two certificates that the authority will aim to achieve in each financial year, the second certificate will be as part of the Assessment of Performance Audit and the council's arrangements to secure continuous improvement.

**Proposal** **Cabinet is requested to**

- Note the positive outcome of the Certificate of Compliance in relation to the council's Improvement Plan 2015-16

**Action by** Cabinet

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Directors
- Heads of Service

## **Background**

As part of the programme of regulatory activity the Auditor General has issued the council with a Certificate of Compliance following an audit of the Improvement Plan 2015-16.

This is the first of two certificates that the authority will aim to achieve in each financial year, the second certificate will be as part of the Assessment of Performance Audit and the council's arrangements to secure continuous improvement.

The Certificates of Compliance have replaced the two 'letters' previously issued to the authority. Through this Certificate the Auditor General for Wales Certifies that:

*"...I have audited Newport City Council's (the Council) Improvement Plan in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and my code of Audit Practice"*

And

*"...I believe that the Council has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties."*

### **Financial Summary:**

The financial implications of actions and projects identified by this and other regulatory work will be reported and considered in the normal way, in accordance with the council's financial plans and regulations.

### **Risks:**

As with the financial implications above, each individual action and wider Improvement Planning agenda will consider risk management practices and policy

### **Links to Council Policies and Priorities:**

The Improvement Plan, Review and associated regulatory work all contribute to the council's key plans

### **Options available:**

- A) To note the positive Certificate of Compliance from the Auditor General for Wales in respect of the audit of the Improvement Plan 2015-16
- B) To disregard the Certificate

### **Preferred Option and Why:**

Preferred option is (A) The Certificate of Compliance is positive and confirms that the council has discharged its duties under the Local Government Measure 2009 with regards to Improvement Planning

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications arising from the Report. The WAO Certificate of Compliance confirms that the Council has discharged its statutory duties in respect of improvement reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Measure 2009..

### **Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. As report author my comments are captured within this report.

### **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Chair of Cabinet has been consulted and has agreed that this report goes forward to Cabinet for consideration

**Local issues**

None

**Background Papers**

Wales Audit Office Certificate of Compliance

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015