

MEETING: **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

DATE: **22 June 2017**

TITLE: **SAVINGS PLANNING TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL RESILIENCE**

PURPOSE: **Consider the Wales Audit Office's Comments and Recommendations**

CABINET MEMBER: **Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Cabinet Member - Finance**

AUTHOR/CONTACT OFFICER: **Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 14 June 2017, the Auditor General for Wales issued a national report stating that “the majority of councils in Wales have improved their medium-term financial plans and now have an effective approach to forecasting the savings they need to achieve”, but “that there is still more for councils to do in planning how they intend to bridge the funding gap that they have identified, which undermines their medium-term financial plans.” The full report is on the Wales Audit Office’s (WAO’s) website –
- <http://www.archwilio.cymru/publication/savings-planning-councils-wales>
- 1.2 The national report does raise several issues which are worthy of consideration.
- 1.3 However, in his specific report on ‘Savings Planning in Gwynedd Council’ issued in March 2017, the Auditor General for Wales states that the Wales Audit Office concluded that –
- the Council’s financial management arrangements are sound and it is well placed to tackle future challenges;
 - the Council has an effective and well-considered savings planning approach, which is supporting future financial resilience;
 - this is a continued strong position from 2015-16 – the Council has well-established and clear policies around its financial planning arrangements.
- 1.4 The WAO’s full report on ‘Savings Planning in Gwynedd Council’ is submitted here as Appendix A.
- 1.5 The WAO’s recommendations and Gwynedd Council’s responses / actions are set out in Appendix B.