



Notes to editors

Press release: Current standard of financial management “disappointing” at too many town and community councils in Wales

- This report is the Auditor General’s 7th annual report into financial management and governance at Town and Community Councils. It summarises issues identified by external auditors during the statutory audit of local councils in Wales.
- There are over 730 Town and Community Councils in Wales. In some cases, these councils jointly provide services through joint committees established for specific services, usually burial services. There are six joint committees in Wales. Collectively, this report refers to these bodies as local councils.
- The Auditor General is the independent statutory external auditor of the devolved Welsh public sector. He is responsible for the annual audit of the majority of the public money spent in Wales, including the £15 billion of funds that are voted on annually by the National Assembly. Elements of this funding are passed by the Welsh Government to the NHS in Wales (over £7 billion) and to local government (over £4 billion).
- The audit independence of the Auditor General is of paramount importance. He is appointed by the Queen, and his audit work is not subject to direction or control by the National Assembly or government.
- The Wales Audit Office (WAO) is a corporate body consisting of a nine member statutory Board which employs staff and provides other resources to the Auditor General, who is also the Board’s Chief Executive and Accounting Officer. The Board monitors and advises the Auditor General, regarding the exercise of his functions.