

Cardiff Council

Audit Committee Update – April 2019

Performance Audit work

2018-19 performance audit work	Scope	Status
Improvement Plan audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to publish a self-assessment of performance in the previous year by 31 October.	Certificate issued to Council May 2018
Performance Plan audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to set improvement objectives.	Certificate issued to Council 29 th November 2018
Annual Improvement Report (AIR)	Annual report summarising the audit work undertaken in the last year which also includes a summary of the key findings from reports issued by 'relevant regulators'	Not started. Likely timescales June/July 2019
Delivering Capital Ambition	Ongoing review and monitoring of the Council's change programme.	Fieldwork complete. Reporting
Assurance and risk assessment	Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources.	Complete. Informed our 2019-20 performance audit programme set out in our 2019 audit plan.
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations	Examination of the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principles when taking steps to meet the following wellbeing objective:	Fieldwork complete. Reporting.

	<p>Cardiff has a high quality city environment where population growth and transport needs are managed sustainably.</p> <p>The step selected for examination as follows: “Develop and launch a new Transport & Clean Air Vision for the city”</p>	
Environmental health	<p>Review of the arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver environmental health services building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General as part of the ‘delivering with less’ themed studies.</p>	Planning
Leisure services	<p>Review of the arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver leisure services building on the ‘study previously undertaken by the Auditor General as part of the ‘delivering with less’ themed studies.</p>	Fieldwork to take place April/May 2019
Corporate safeguarding arrangements	<p>Review of the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding arrangements building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General in this area.</p>	Fieldwork to take place April 2019

2017-18 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
Services to rural communities	<p>The study will focus on whether local government uses its resources to deliver services that meet the needs of rural communities today and in the longer term. Cardiff has not been selected to take part in the detailed fieldwork of this study.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Link to Local Government Services to Local Communities</p> <p>Link Provision of Local Government Services to Rural Communities: Community Asset Transfer</p>

Using data effectively	This study will seek to identify whether councils' corporate management arrangements for managing and using data are leading to better decision making in the use of resources.	Complete Link The maturity of local government in use of data
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2018-19 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
First point of contact assessments under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>The Welsh Government introduced the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act), which focuses on reforming and simplifying the law relating to social services. The 2014 Act introduced new duties for local authorities, local health boards and other public bodies and covers adults, children and their carers, and came into force on 6 April 2016. The study will review first point of contact and assessments for adult social care.</p> <p>Detailed fieldwork in five local authorities. We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Cardiff City Council, Denbighshire County Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council</p>	Fieldwork complete. Drawing conclusions April 2019.
Tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence	In 2015 the Welsh Government passed the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act (the 2015 Act). The overarching objective of the 2015 Act is to improve the Public Sector response to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; provide a strategic focus on these issues; and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services. The review will focus on determining whether local authorities and their partners are effectively working together to prevent gender-based violence and domestic abuse, and protecting all of the people involved.	Underway

	<p>Our fieldwork sites are Swansea City and County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Flintshire County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</p>	
<p>Planning Services: Improving the wellbeing of Wales</p>	<p>Planning services are an important part of the democratic jigsaw that allows the detailed consideration of proposals to improve the economic prospects of the nation. Good planning decisions can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people and places. Poor planning decisions can have a detrimental impact on people’s wellbeing and can stifle economic development. This study will provide independent assurance that planning authorities are supporting sustainable development and delivering for the future long-term wellbeing of their communities and for Wales</p> <p>We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Bridgend County Borough Council, Gwynedd County Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council and Ceredigion County Council.</p>	<p>Fieldwork complete. Starting drafting process.</p>

Our programme of 2019-20 local government studies has recently been agreed following consultation

<p>Public Service Boards and the effectiveness of partnership working</p>	<p>As a refinement to the proposal in our consultation on regional working in local government, this work will focus on issues relating to the performance of Public Service Boards as vehicles for improving the well-being of citizens.</p>	
<p>The impact of austerity on LA discretionary services</p>	<p>This study will focus on judging how well local authorities understand, plan for and meet the needs of those people in need of discretionary services. The review will look at the scale of changes in discretionary provision across Welsh local authorities.</p>	

Commercialisation in local authorities

This study will look at the work of councils to create a strong commercial outlook, how they are developing commercial skills, their policies, vision, monitoring and reporting abilities and broader delivery infrastructure.

National Studies

Update and link to report

Waste management

Recycling module (published [Link](#)); waste prevention (clearance) and waste treatment infrastructure modules (published [Link](#))

NHS Wales informatics services

Published 10 January 2018. [Link](#) to published report

Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation

Published 25 April 2018. [Link](#) to published report

Early intervention and public behaviour change

Drafting

Welsh Government business finance

Published 29th November 2018

Primary care

Published April 2018. [Link](#) to published report

Youth services

Drafting

Managing the Impact of Brexit on the Rural Development Programme

Published November 28th November 2018 [Link](#)

European Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020

Published August 2018 [Link](#)

Integrated Care Fund

Drafting

Arrangements that public bodies across Wales are putting in place to manage the implications, risks and opportunities of Brexit.

Published February 2019. [Link](#) to published report

National studies that we plan to take forward in 2019-20

Picture of public services

We plan to adopt this as a theme for different pieces of commentary-based work over a threeyear period. Reflecting proposals set out in our work programme consultation, in 2019-20 this could include plans for work on a UK comparative spending analysis and commentary on

	examples of changing approaches to public services. It could also include further commentary on NHS finances.
Brexit	Following our February 2019 report, we will be taking forward further work to consider how public bodies are responding to the implications, risks and opportunities of Brexit. This is likely to then continue as a theme for further work in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
Preventing fraud and corruption	We are already taking work forward to provide an initial overview report to inform a planned Public Accounts Committee inquiry. We may then take forward further work to consider in more detail the effectiveness of public bodies' arrangements.
Administration of student finance	We plan to consider issues relating to the overall administration of the student finance system, including the implementation of the new arrangements introduced from September 2018 and the Welsh Government's modelling of future repayments. This work may also draw on the results from data-matching work as part of the National Fraud Initiative.
Fuel poverty / energy efficiency	This work will look at progress in tackling fuel poverty. The work will consist how fuel poverty/home energy efficiency programmes integrate with wider anti-poverty work.
Welsh Government workforce This	This study would look at how the Welsh Government is planning its workforce in light of the changing environment in which it operates. We may extend the work to consider wider workforce management issues.
Welsh Government ICT	This work would look at the basis for the Welsh Government's decision to bring its core IT service in-house from early 2019, including expected costs and benefits and the extent to which the new arrangements are delivering in line with expectations.
Digital resilience	This would look at how public bodies are ensuring that their IT systems are resilient, robust and secure so that, in the event of serious incidents, systems can be recovered quickly and services can keep running. It could also incorporate some more general issues reflective of the proposal in our consultation on ICT asset management.

Financial sustainability in local government	We will be taking forward local audit work across all local authorities on this topic. This work will examine medium and longer term financial strategy, budget management, cost pressures, efficiency and savings plans, and levels and use of reserves. We anticipate reporting the findings from that work in some way at a national level.
Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS)	We touched on plans for the WCCIS in our 2018 report on informatics systems in NHS Wales. This study will look at the effectiveness of the national and local implementation arrangements and would consider whether the investment to date has provided value for money. Our consultation identified this as a potential topic for the period 2020-21 or 2021-22, but we plan to bring this forward.
Grants management	Building on the proposal in our consultation, this work will reflect on how the Welsh Government has been managing changes to grant schemes but as part of a wider look at how grant management arrangements have developed since our 2011 report .
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	We will be examining whether NHS Wales has worked collectively to address the issues we identified through previous local audit work at Public Health Wales NHS Trust.
NHS waiting times	We intend to follow up on our 2015 report and are likely to incorporate consideration of the topic from our consultation on procedures of limited clinical value. There are also links to our ongoing work on orthopaedic services.
Covering teachers' absence	We intend to follow up on developments since our 2013 report , including in response to the Ministerial Supply Model Taskforce's 2017 report .