

Cardiff Council

Work Programme update 2018-19/2019-20

Performance Audit work

2018-19 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Status
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'	Final issued to Council 11 October 2019
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 the following step: "Develop and launch a new Transport and Clean Air Vision for the City' which sits under the Council's Well-being objective of 'Cardiff grows in a resilient way'.	Complete. Final report issued 22 nd July 2019
Environmental health	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. The review will seek to answer the question: Is the Council's environmental health service continuing to deliver its statutory obligations given the financial challenges?	Complete Final report issued 17 September 2019. Due to go to the November Environment scrutiny committee

Corporate safeguarding arrangements	Review of the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding arrangements building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General in this area.	Complete. Final report issued 27 th June 2019 Presented to CYP Scrutiny Committee 24 th September 2019
2019-20 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.	Final Certificate issued 11 th April 2019
Performance audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to set improvement objectives.	Final Certificate issued 20 th August 2019
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'	July 2020
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.	Underway
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 principle when taking steps to meet its Priority for 2019-20 is to Support Sports, Leisure, Culture and Green Spaces.	Report being drafted.
Financial Sustainability	The project will seek to assess the sustainability of councils' short to medium-term financial position. This will include a focus on reviewing financial 'indicators' of each council's financial position in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance against budget • Delivery of savings plans 	Interviews arranged for November. Self Assessment received from Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of reserves • Council tax • Borrowing 	
Waste Management/recycling	A project to look at the pressures in this area and understand the Council's plans to improve performance.	Planning
Social Services budget and cost pressures	A project to look at social services budgetary and cost pressures.	Planning
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>	Published 12 th September 2019 Here
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	Due to be published November 2019

	<p>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.</p> <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>Published 6th June 2019</p> <p>LINK to Published report</p>
2019-20 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>Review of Public Service Boards and the effectiveness of partnership working</p>	<p>This review will provide assurance and insight on how well PSBs are delivering the expectations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and by working together in tackling complex hard to shift problems. This includes examining the practicalities of joint working, what resources are being used, whether current arrangements are fit for purpose, and what needs to change.</p> <p>This review will also allow us to identify how decisions are communicated to partners and the public and whether</p>	<p>Report published 8 October 2019</p> <p>Link to published report</p>

	<p>decisions are transparent to help build a picture of how relationships work in reality.</p> <p>We will undertake fieldwork looking at how partners recognise and deal with problems of rough sleeping including public and voluntary bodies in three areas – Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham.</p>	
<p>The impact of austerity on discretionary services in local government</p>	<p>The focus of the study is to provide independent assurance by looking at councils approaches to sustaining discretionary services and identify if councils are ensuring changes in provision or cessation of activity do not adversely impact future generations or those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The study will provide insight on an issue that is much talked about but not well evidenced and provides us with a good opportunity to comment on services which are much valued by citizens across Wales. The review will take a strong focus on risk management and consider how well councils manage the transition from direct service providers towards a different role based on what will be affordable in the future.</p>	<p>Data tool being developed</p>
<p>Commercialisation in local government</p>	<p>Our review will focus on producing good practice case studies and support materials to help authorities develop their approaches to commercialisation. This will cover the key building blocks required to effectively manage commercialisation.</p> <p>The study will comment on long-term approaches to financial sustainability and how commercial activity supports organisations to deliver their wider wellbeing objectives and corporate priorities. Given commercialisation should have a strong ethical focus we are likely to touch on equality issues and we will provide a commentary on how public bodies collectively are responding to ensuring fairness and accountability for commercial ventures.</p>	<p>Fieldwork being set up</p>

National Studies	Update and link to report
Integrated care fund	Published 18 th July 2019 LINK
Reflecting on Year One – Well-being of Future Generations Act	Published 10 th May 2018 LINK
Waste management	Recycling module (published Link); waste prevention (published Link) and waste treatment infrastructure modules (published Link)
Managing the Impact of Brexit on the Rural Development Programme	Published November 28 th November 2018 Link
European Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020	Published August 2018 Link
Primary care services in Wales	Published Oct 2019 Link
Preparations in Wales for a no-deal Brexit – follow-up letter	Published Sept 2019 Link
Public spending trends in Wales 1999-00 to 2017-18	Published Oct 2019 Link