

Neath Port Talbot Council - Springing Forward - Strategic Management of Assets	<p>R2 Strategic asset management planning and delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the Council has agreed its new Corporate Asset Management Strategy it should develop the supporting arrangements to ensure that it has sufficient corporate oversight and a consistent approach to the delivery of its asset objectives across the organisation. 	Nicola Pearce	3 Recommendations	Dec-23	26.01.2024	Local	TBC	TBC	21.03.2024	TBA
<p>R3 Strategic asset management governance and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the Council is able to understand the progress its asset management strategy and arrangements are making and how those are helping to deliver and achieve its Well-being Objectives, it will need to assure itself that its current governance arrangements are sufficient to effectively monitor its progress. To ensure that it can better understand the progress it is making around its assets, and to determine if it is delivering value for money, the Council needs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and communicate regular progress monitoring reports; develop a broader set of asset related measures; and look for opportunities to benchmark itself against other organisations 										
Neath Port Talbot Council - Springing Forward - Strategic Workforce Management (2021-2022)	<p>R1 Workforce planning and delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure there are progression pathways for staff and there is resilience around its business-critical roles, the Council should ensure all services have succession plans and have identified their business-critical roles. 	Noelwyn Daniel	2 recommendation	Dec-23	26.01.2024	Local	Cabinet	14.02.2024	21.03.2024	TBA
<p>R2 Workforce governance and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have a better understanding of the impact of its workforce strategy the Council should develop measures that focus on outcomes and impacts in addition to inputs. The Council should build on its benchmarking with the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and consider where there may be opportunities to benchmark its measures and metrics with its peers to ensure it can identify areas of good practice and potential areas for improvement. To enable the Council to have a clearer understanding of the progress it is making towards meeting its workforce ambitions the Council should assure itself that the Organisational Delivery Board is providing effective oversight and driving integration across related programmes of work. 										
Neath Port Talbot Council - Review of Scrutiny	<p>R1 Current model and role of scrutiny: The Council should review its current model for scrutiny to ensure scrutiny can fulfil its broader range of roles and responsibilities. Any revised model should ensure there are opportunities for scrutiny to engage in its wider roles, including for example, in relation to: Policy development – Performance monitoring – Holding cabinet members to account throughout the decision-making process – Following up outcomes of previous recommendations or decisions Public engagement</p>	Noelwyn Daniel	5 recommendations	Nov-23	26.01.2024	Local	Council	20.03.2024	TBC	TBA
<p>R2 Public Engagement - The Council's scrutiny model should be more citizen focused by strengthening its arrangements for public involvement and engagement in scrutiny. This should include ensuring greater transparency and timeliness about which items will be on the scrutiny committee agendas; and using existing engagement and consultation work to inform its scrutiny work including consideration of scrutiny topics, as part of its scrutiny reviews, in holding cabinet members and decisions to account, and in its performance monitoring roles.</p>										
<p>R3 Planning and work programme - To enable the scrutiny model to be more citizen focused, the Council should review its arrangements for the way in which scrutiny is planned to ensure scrutiny can independently plan and strategically prioritise its own work programme.</p>										
<p>R4 Support - The Council should review the type of scrutiny support it requires across all areas of the organisation including service areas, to enable scrutiny to perform its wider role and ensure that any resourcing implications arising from any changes to the scrutiny model are understood and planned for.</p>										
<p>R5 Evaluation - The Council should strengthen its arrangements for assessing the effectiveness and impact of scrutiny.</p>										
Audit Wales Equality Report 2022-23	No recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations	Nov-23	26.01.2024	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Neath Port Talbot Council - Digital Strategy Review	R1 Monitoring benefits: If the Council continues with the approach of not stating a timeframe to deliver its Digital, Data and Technology strategy, it should put in place arrangements to: – clearly articulate its short, medium and long term outcomes and intended benefits; – cost its short, medium and long term ambitions and match them with available resources; and – assess if it is delivering the strategy and its intended outcomes at the intended pace.	Noelwyn Daniel	1 recommendation	Oct-23	26.01.2024	Local	Cabinet	28.11.2023	21.03.2024	N/A
Audit Wales Interim Report 2023-2024	No recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations	Oct-23	26.01.2024	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBA
Neath Port Talbot Council - Setting of Well-being Objectives	In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its WBOs, the Council should: • develop a clearer understanding of when and how partners will support the delivery of its WBOs; • ensure its MTFs 2023-2027 clearly considers how the Council's resources support the delivery of its WBOs and identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of its WBOs; and • ensure that as it refreshes its CPMF, it looks for opportunities to develop more outcome-focused metrics that will enable it to measure its crosscutting WBOs.	Noelwyn Daniel	1 recommendation	Sep-23	12.10.2023	Local Letter	Cabinet	20.09.2023	21.03.2023	TBA
Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK	No Recommendations listed - report shared with relevant officers	Nicola Pearce	No recommendations	Sep-23	12.10.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Springing Forward: Lessons for our work on workforce and assets	No Recommendations listed - report shared with relevant officers. Awaiting draft local report.	Noelwyn Daniel	No recommendations	Sep-23	12.10.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cracks in the Foundations' - Building Safety in Wales	<p>R1 The Welsh Government should provide greater clarity on the implementation and expectations of the Building Safety Act to ensure local authorities are able to deliver their new responsibilities and duties. This should include: • clarifying the detailed requirements for competency and registration to enable local authorities to plan for these changes; • a specific timetable for development and adoption of Welsh guidance to ensure local authorities and others can deliver their duties; and • the Welsh Government should work with key stakeholders, such as LABC Cymru, to support understanding and implementation when guidance is issued.</p> <p>R2 The Welsh Government should ensure that it has sufficient resources to deliver the legislative and policy changes for Building Safety to reduce implementation risks. Recommendations page 12 'Cracks in the Foundations' – Building Safety in Wales Recommendations</p> <p>R3 The Welsh Government should review the mixed market approach to building control and conclude whether it continues to be appropriate and effective in keeping buildings in Wales safe. This should: • assess the status quo against potential changes, such as the model of delivery in Scotland; • be framed around a SWOT analysis of costs, benefits, threats, and risks; • draw on existing research to identify good practice; and • be published and agree a way forward.</p> <p>R4 The Welsh Government should increase its oversight and management of the building control sector to ensure there is a robust assurance system in place for building control and safety by: • creating a national performance framework with clear service standards to promote consistency of service. This should also include outcome measures to monitor performance and an evaluation and reporting framework for scrutiny. • developing a national building safety workforce plan to address the most significant risks facing the sector. This should include regular data collection and publication, as well as coverage of priorities, such as: - a greater focus on trainees to mitigate succession risks; - establishing aligned, national job roles matched to competency levels; - increasing the diversity of the sector to ensure it reflects modern Wales; and - specific funding to enable surveyors to obtain and maintain competence should also be considered. • the Welsh Government should explore with the further education sector how best to provide building control training in Wales to support succession planning, skills development, and competency. page 13 'Cracks in the Foundations' – Building Safety in Wales Recommendations</p> <p>R5 Local authorities should develop local action plans that articulate a clear vision for building control to be able to plan effectively to implement the requirements of the Act. The Plans should: • be based on an assessment of local risks and include mitigation actions; • set out how building control services will be resourced to deliver all their statutory responsibilities; • illustrate the key role of building control in ensuring safe buildings and be linked to well-being objectives and other corporate objectives; and • include outcome measures that are focused on all building control services, not just dangerous structures.</p>		4 recommendations for local authorities / 4 recommendations for Welsh Government	Aug-23	12.10.2023	National		12.10.2023		

	<p>R6 Local authorities should urgently review their financial management of building control and ensure they are fully complying with Regulations. This should include: • establishing a timetable of regular fee reviews to ensure charges reflect the cost of services and comply with the Regulations; • annually reporting and publishing financial performance in line with the Regulations; • ensuring relevant staff are provided with training to ensure they apply the Regulations and interpret financial reporting correctly; and • revise fees to ensure services are charged for in accordance with the Regulations.</p> <p>R7 Local authorities should work with partners to make better use of limited resources by exploring the potential for collaboration and regionalisation to strengthen resilience through a cost benefit analysis of partnering with neighbouring authorities, establishing joint ventures and/or adopting a regional model where beneficial. page 14 'Cracks in the Foundations' – Building Safety in Wales Recommendations R8 Local authorities should review risk management processes to ensure that risks are systematically identified, recorded, assessed, mitigated and subject to regular evaluation and scrutiny</p> <p>R8 Local authorities should review risk management processes to ensure that risks are systematically identified, recorded, assessed, mitigated and subject to regular evaluation and scrutiny.</p>									
Audit Wales Annual Plan 2023-2024	No Recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations	Apr-23	16.06.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital inclusion in Wales	No Recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations	Mar-23	16.06.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.06.2023
Neath Port Talbot Council - Annual Audit Summary 2022	No Recommendations listed	Karen Jones	No recommendations	Mar-23	16.06.2023	Local Letter	Council	26.04.2023	N/A	N/A
Neath Port Talbot Council - Assurance and Risk Assessment 2021-22 Financial Position Update	No Recommendations listed	Huw Jones	No recommendations	Jan-23	17.03.2023	Local Letter	Cabinet	17.05.2023	16.06.2023	16.06.2023
Together we can' - Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	R1 To strengthen community resilience and support people to be more self-reliant, local authorities need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place. We recommend that local authorities use the evaluation tool in Appendix 2 to: • self-evaluate current engagement, management, performance and practice; • identify where improvement is needed; and • draft and implement an action plan with timeframes and responsibilities clearly set out to address the gaps and weaknesses identified in completing the evaluation tool.	TBD	2 recommendations for local government	Jan-23	17.03.2023	National	Cabinet	TBD	16.06.2023	16.06.2023
	R2 To help local authorities address the gaps they identify following their self-evaluation, we recommend that they: • formally approve the completed Action Plan arising from the evaluation exercise; • regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees; and • revise actions and targets in light of the authority's evaluation and assessment of its performance									
A Missed Opportunity' – Social Enterprises	R1 To get the best from their work with and funding of Social Enterprises, local authorities need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place. We recommend that local authority officers use the checklist in Appendix 2 to: • self-evaluate current Social Enterprise engagement, management, performance and practice; • identify opportunities to improve joint working; and • jointly draft and implement an action plan with timeframes and responsibilities clearly set out to address the gaps and weaknesses identified through the self-evaluation	TBD	3 recommendations for local government	Dec-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	TBD	16.06.2023	17.03.2023
	R2 To drive improvement we recommend that the local authority: • formally approve the completed Action Plan; • regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees; and • revise actions and targets in light of the authority's evaluation and assessment of its performance									
	R3 To ensure the local authority delivers its S.16 responsibilities to promote Social Enterprises we recommend that it reports on current activity and future priorities following the evaluation of its Action Plan including the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services.									
A Picture of Flood Risk Management	No Recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations for local government	Dec-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poverty in Wales data tool	No Recommendations listed	N/A	No recommendations for local government	Nov-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

"Time for Change" – Poverty in Wales	<p>R2 In Paragraphs 2.13 – 2.23 and Paragraphs 3.33 – 3.35 we highlight that councils and partners have prioritised work on poverty, but the mix of approaches and a complicated delivery landscape mean that ambitions, focus, actions and prioritisation vary widely. We highlight that evaluating activity and reporting performance are also variable with many gaps. We recommend that the councils use their Wellbeing Plans to provide a comprehensive focus on tackling poverty to co-ordinate their efforts, meet local needs and support the revised national plan targets and actions. This should: • include SMART local actions with a greater emphasis on prevention; • include a detailed resourcing plan for the length of the strategy; • be developed with involvement from other public sector partners, the third sector, and those with experience of poverty; • include a robust set of consistent outcome indicators and measures to increase understanding of poverty locally; and • be subject to annual public reporting to enable a whole system view of poverty locally to help improve delivery and support</p>	N/A	2 recommendations for Welsh Government / 6 recommendations for local government	Oct-22	12.01.2023	National	Cabinet	TBD	16.06.2023	17.03.2023
	<p>R3 In Paragraph 2.23 we note that just over a third of councils have lead members and lead officers for addressing poverty. Given the importance of effective leadership in driving the poverty agenda forward and breaking silos within councils and between public bodies, we recommend that each council designate a cabinet member as the council's poverty champion and designate a senior officer to lead and be accountable for the anti-poverty agenda.</p>									
	<p>R5 In Paragraphs 3.2 – 3.6 we highlight that people in poverty are often in crisis, dealing with extremely personal and stressful issues, but they often find it difficult to access help from councils because of the way services are designed and delivered. We recommend that councils improve their understanding of their residents' 'lived experience' through meaningful involvement in decision-making using 'experience mapping' and/or 'Poverty Truth Commissions' to review and improve accessibility to and use of council services.</p>									
	<p>R6 In Paragraph 3.14 we highlight the difficulties people in poverty face accessing online and digital services. To ensure people are able to get the information and advice they need, we recommend that councils optimise their digital services by creating a single landing page on their website that: • is directly accessible on the home page; • provides links to all services provided by the council that relate to poverty; and • provides information on the work of partners that can assist people in poverty</p>									
	<p>R7 In Paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 we note that no council has created a single gateway into services. As a result, people have to complete multiple application forms that often record the same information when applying for similar services. We highlight that whilst it is important that councils comply with relevant data protection legislation, they also need to share data to ensure citizens receive efficient and effective services. We recommend that councils: • establish corporate data standards and coding that all services use for their core data; • undertake an audit to determine what data is held by services and identify any duplicated records and information requests; • create a central integrated customer account as a gateway to services; • undertake a data audit to provide refresher training to service managers to ensure they know when and what data they can and cannot share; and • review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities</p>									
<p>R8 In Paragraphs 3.27 to 3.32 we set out that while all councils undertake some form of assessment to determine the likely socio-economic impact of policy choices and decisions, approaches vary and are not always effective. We recommend that councils review their integrated impact assessments or equivalent to: • ensure that they draw on relevant, comprehensive and current data (nothing over 12 months old) to support analysis; • ensure integrated impact assessments capture information on: - involvement activity setting out those the service has engaged with in determining its strategic policy such as partners, service users and those it is co-producing with; - the cumulative impact/mitigation to ensure the assessment considers issues in the round and how it links across services provided across the council; - how the council will monitor and evaluate impact and will take corrective action; and - an action plan setting out the activities the Council will take as a result of the Integrated Impact Assessment</p>										
Assurance and Risk Assessment Progress – Carbon Reduction	<p>In order to meet its net zero ambition the Council needs to fully cost its action plan and ensure that it is aligned with its Medium Term Financial Plan.</p>	Nicola Pearce	1 recommendation for local government	Oct-22	12.01.2023	Local Letter	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board	20.01.2023	17.03.2023	17.03.2023

Care Home Commissioning for Older People	<p>No Recommendations listed</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>2 recommendations for Welsh Government / No recommendations for local government</p>	<p>Dec-21</p>	<p>12.01.2023</p>	<p>National</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Audit of NPT's Assessment of Performance (Dec 21) (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 12/01/2022 14:01 (npt.gov.uk)</p>	<p>No Recommendations listed</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No recommendations</p>	<p>Dec-21</p>	<p>12.01.2023</p>	<p>Local</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>12.01.2022</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>