

Progress on Proposals for Improvement - Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report (2016-17)

Local work		
Work area	Proposal for improvement	Progress
Governance: The review of the Council's governance arrangements for significant service change concluded they are proportionate to their scale and complexity but the evaluation of their impact is inconsistent	P1: The Council should further develop guidance for officers to reinforce what is required in terms of conducting and reporting options appraisals on service change proposals and other information	Achieved
	P2: The Council should set out arrangements for monitoring the impact of service changes at the point of decision	Achieved
	P3: The Council should strengthen its systems to ensure monitoring reports requested by scrutiny committees are routinely provided	Achieved
Use of Resources: The review of the Council's financial savings arrangements concluded that whilst the Council lacks indicative savings plans for future years it has a sound financial planning framework which supports future financial resilience	P1: Strengthen financial planning arrangements by developing longer terms savings plans to cover the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan	Work in progress We have asked Directors/Heads of Service for longer term savings plans and these are being worked on as part of the 19/20 budget setting process
Local risk-based performance audit: 1. The review of Third Sector roles in supporting welfare reform advice concluded access to welfare advice in Neath Port Talbot varies and there are examples of duplication	P1: The Council would benefit from investigating the extent of duplication and the potential to better align provision and improve coverage across the County Borough	Achieved

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2. The review of the Council's Corporate Risk Register found the structure of the risk register and strategic risk management procedures were appropriate but the corporate register was detailed or clear enough to support effective risk management	P1: Establish clear procedures about how to identify, categorise and mitigate corporate risks by including more relevant detail within the Corporate Risk Register	Achieved (new policy in place)
	P2: Ensure that mitigating actions have established timeframes, milestones and sufficient detail to allow effective scrutiny to take place	Achieved (via new corporate performance management system)
3. The review of Performance Management arrangements in the Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate concluded the directorate is learning from improvements to performance management arrangements in children's services but needs to produce its business plans earlier and further strengthen arrangements in adult services	P1: The Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate in future years produce business plans in readiness for sign off by the relevant Cabinet Member before the Council's Annual General Meeting in May	Achieved (via new corporate performance management system)
	P2: The Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate learns from the experience in children's services and continues to work to develop and agree a comprehensive suite of performance management information for the directorate that is visible and that actively assists the service in driving improvement	Achieved (via new corporate performance management system)