

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Quarterly Update: 31 December 2021

Annual Audit Summary

Description	Timetable	Status
A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in April 2021	February 2022	Drafting

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts	Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts	July 30 2021	Complete

Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Financial Sustainability	A project common to all local councils that will assess financial	Complete Report issued	<u>Final report issued</u>

	sustainability in light of current and anticipated future challenges building on work undertaken during 2019-20.	September 2021	National Summary Report published September 2021
Workforce Planning	Review of workforce planning, impact of Covid and future resilience of the workforce	Complete	Reported workshop in November 2021

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations	We will seek to integrate the delivery of our WFG examinations of steps to deliver wellbeing objectives with our other audit work. We will discuss this with the council as we scope and deliver the audit projects listed in this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	We will examine the extent to which the council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle in setting its Well-being Objectives.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Improvement reporting audit	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Dec 2021	Complete
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.	Ongoing	Ongoing

	<p>At Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, the project is likely to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial position • self-assessment arrangements • recovery planning • implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act • carbon reduction plans • assess the Council's response to its independent investigation and subsequent action plan 		
<p>Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future</p>	<p>As the world moves forward, learning from the global pandemic, this review looks at how effectively councils are strengthening their ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of services, including those delivered in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.</p>	<p>Planned for Autumn 2021 onwards to look at two tracers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workforce tracers • assets tracers 	<p>Fieldwork complete for workforce and fieldwork ongoing for assets tracer</p>

Local government national studies planned / in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at NPT County Borough Council
Direct Payments	Review of how local authorities manage and promote the use of Direct payments	Publication Winter 2021-22	Drawing conclusions mid-October, drafting and publication early 2022	No – work being delivered via Direct Payment Forum and a selection of follow up interviews
Emergency Services	Review of how well emergency	Publication winter 2021-22	Clearance with publication	N / A

	services (blue light) collaborate		end of January 2022	
Follow up on People Sleeping Rough	Review of how local authorities responded to the needs of people sleeping rough during the pandemic following up on the AGWs report of July 2020	N/A	N/A	This work is not progressing in 2021-22
Poverty	Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty.	Autumn 2021 - Autumn 2022	Fieldwork	Yes - interview with nominated officer at the council
Social Enterprises	Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	Autumn 2021 - Autumn 2022	Fieldwork	Yes - interview with nominated officer at the council
Community Resilience	Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities	Autumn 2021 - Autumn 2022	Fieldwork	Yes - interview with nominated officer at the council

Estyn

Estyn planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Local Government Education Services Inspections	Estyn have worked closely with Directors of Education to review their inspection guidance for local government education services to reflect the experiences of the pandemic. The updated guidance (published on 1 July) will be piloted on the first inspection and feedback will be sought on whether any further refinements need to be made.	LGES inspections to resume from late Autumn term	N/A
Curriculum Reform thematic review	Regional consortia and local authority support for curriculum reform.	Evidence collecting in Sept/Oct - publish in early February	N/A

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
National Assurance Check 2020-21	CIW has now published all assurance check letters CIW has published its national assurance check report highlighting key findings and recommendations	Published	Complete
Programme 2022-23	CIW will run an annual programme of assurance checks, performance evaluation inspections and risk-based inspections	April 2022- March 2023	Planning

National review	Support for disabled children and their families.	Published	Complete
Follow-up	CIW will be following up on areas for improvement identified in the Assurance Checks or through risk-based inspection activity with individual local authorities where necessary.	ongoing	One follow up risk based inspection has occurred and due to be published. Two further follow up assurance checks have occurred and due to be published in due course
Inspection	Risk based inspection activity will continue where required.	As required	No inspections are scheduled at this time (up until April 2022)
Development	CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of local authorities	April 2022	In progress
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2020-21	Annual monitoring report in draft format currently – this is a joint report with Health Inspectorate Wales	December 2021	In progress
Annual meeting with Statutory Directors of Social Services	CIW will meet with all Directors of Social Services	Dec 2021 and Jan 2022	In progress

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published since 1 April 2021

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Care Home Commissioning for Older People	December 2021
The Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme	November 2021
Taking Care of the Carers? How NHS bodies supported staff wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic	October 2021
Financial Sustainability of Local Government	September 2021
NHS summarised accounts infographic	September 2021
Picture of Public Services ¹	September 2021
Town Centre Regeneration	September 2021
Student finances	August 2021
NHS finances data-tool 2020-21	June 2021
Rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Wales	June 2021
Quality governance arrangements at Cwm Taf UHB – follow up	May 2021

¹ Main report published 15 September. Over the following six weeks we published five short sector commentaries: [A picture of local government](#), [A picture of healthcare](#), [A picture of social care](#), [A picture of schools](#), [A picture of higher and further education](#).

Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee governance arrangements	<u>May 2021</u>
At your Discretion - Local Government Discretionary Services	<u>April 2021</u>
Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic	<u>April 2021</u>

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs due to be published during 2021-22 (and other work in progress/planned)²

Title	Anticipated publication date
Welsh Government accounts commentary	February 2022
Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives	February 2022
Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary	February/March 2022
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	February 2022
COVID response & recovery / Welsh Government grants management – third sector support	February 2022
NHS waiting times data-tool and planned care commentary	March 2022
Welsh Government workforce	February/March 2022

² We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. This includes maintaining some flexibility so that we can respond to developments in Welsh Government policy and areas of possible interest for the new Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

Orthopaedic services	March 2022
Curriculum reform	Spring 2022
Equality impact assessment	Spring 2022
Climate change – baseline review	Spring/summer 2022
COVID response & recovery / Welsh Government grants management - other	TBC
Affordable housing	TBC
Broadband infrastructure	TBC
Flood risk management	TBC

Forthcoming Good Practice Exchange events and publications

Title	Anticipated publication/event date
Post event resources including session recordings for the Springing Forward event on organisational resilience held on 9/12/21	Late January 2022
Direct Payments Event (title TBC)	March 30 2022