

## Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Neath Port Talbot Council

**Quarterly Update: 30 June 2022**

### Annual Audit Summary

| Description  | Timetable     | Status   |
|--|---------------|----------|
| A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in February 2022 | February 2022 | Complete |

### Financial Audit work

| Description   | Scope   | Timetable                  | Status                       |
|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Audit of the Council's 2021-22 statement of accounts</b> | To provide an opinion on the 'truth and fairness' of the Council's financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2022. | February to September 2022 | Final audit work in progress |

| Description   | Scope  | Timetable   | Status                                |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Certification of Grant returns for financial year 2021-22:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Benefit Subsidy</li> <li>• Non Domestic Rates</li> <li>• Teachers' Pension Contributions</li> <li>• Social Care Workforce Development Plan</li> </ul> | <p>Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not fairly stated</li> <li>• Is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions</li> </ul> | <p>In line with certification deadlines.</p> <p>October to December 2022.</p> | <p>Audit to commence October 2022</p> |



| 2021-22<br>Performance<br>audit work | Scope  | Timetable | Status   |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|
| <b>Assurance and Risk Assessment</b> | <p>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.</p> <p>At Neath Port Talbot Council the project is likely to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial position</li> <li>• Self-assessment arrangements</li> <li>• Recovery planning</li> <li>• Implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act</li> <li>• Carbon reduction plans</li> <li>• Assessing the Council's response to its independent investigation and subsequent action plan</li> </ul> | Ongoing   | Drafting |

| 2021-22<br>Performance<br>audit work  | Scope  | Timetable         | Status          |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future</b> | <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>April 2022</p> | <p>Drafting</p> |

| 2022-23<br>Performance<br>audit work | Scope   | Timetable  | Status  |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|---------|
| <b>Assurance and Risk Assessment</b> | <p>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 and acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle. The project is likely to focus in particular on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial position</li> <li>• Capital programme management</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Use of performance information – with a focus on service user feedback and outcomes</li> <li>• Setting of well-being objectives, if applicable</li> </ul> | March 2023 | Ongoing |

| 2022-23<br>Performance<br>audit work              | Scope   | Timetable                  | Status       |
|---|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Thematic Review –<br/>Unscheduled<br/>Care</b> | A cross-sector review focusing on the flow of patients out of hospital. This review will consider how the Council is working with its partners to address the risks associated with the provision of social care to support hospital discharge, as well as prevent hospital admission. The work will also consider what steps are being taken to provide medium to longer-term solutions. | July –<br>December<br>2022 | Scoping      |
| <b>Thematic review<br/>– Digital</b>              | This project will be scoped over the summer with further details of the specific focus of the review to be confirmed.   | To be<br>confirmed         | Scoping      |
| <b>Scrutiny Review</b>                            | This project will be agreed with officers during the summer   | To be<br>agreed            | To be agreed |

## Local government national studies planned/in progress

| Study   | Scope   | Timetable                 | Status              | Fieldwork planned at Neath Port Talbot Council        |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Poverty</b>                                      | Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty. | Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022 | Drawing Conclusions | Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council |
| <b>Social Enterprises</b>                           | Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services   | Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022 | Drawing conclusions | Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council |
| <b>Building Social Resilience and Self reliance</b> | Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities                           | Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022 | Drawing conclusions | Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council |



## Estyn

| Estyn planned work 2022-23                             | Scope   | Timetable   | Status     |
|--|---|---|------------|
| <b>Local Government Education Services Inspections</b> | <p>Estyn inspected Anglesey and Swansea local government education services during the summer term. The reports will be published in August and early September. The <a href="#">Torfaen</a> report was published on 18 May. Estyn will be reviewing the inspection guidance to reflect a greater emphasis on socio-economic disadvantage and inequity and to make minor tweaks in response to feedback from inspections in 2021-22</p> | <p>Inspection guidance review – July.<br/>Published on website 1 September.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <b>Curriculum Reform thematic review</b>               | <p>The Welsh Government have also asked Estyn to review the school improvement services in south-west Wales.</p>  | <p>Evidence collecting in June/July – published in September.</p>               | <p>N/A</p> |

## Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

| CIW planned work 2022-23   | Scope  | Timetable                      | Status          |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Programme 2022-23</b>   | CIW will continue to run its pilot cyclic programme of assurance checks, improvement checks and performance evaluation inspections.          | April 2022 – March 2023        | In progress     |
| <b>Development</b>   | CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of local authorities.<br>CIW will consult further regarding its approach. | September 2022 – December 2022 | In progress     |
| <b>Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2021-22</b> | Following the publication of the 2020-21 report, planning is underway for the next report publication date to be confirmed.                  | Publication to be confirmed    | Data collecting |
| <b>Annual meeting with Statutory Directors of Social Services</b>                                    | CIW will meet with all Directors of Social Services  | December 2022 and January 2023 | Planning        |

| CIW planned work 2022-23   | Scope  | Timetable  | Status                                     |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>National review of Care Planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline pre-proceedings</b></p> | <p><b>Purpose of the review</b><br/>           To provide external scrutiny, assurance and to promote improvement regarding the quality of practice in relation to the care planning for children and young people subject to the public law outline pre-proceedings.<br/>           To consider the extent to which practice has progressed since the publication of both the CIW 'National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to public law outline pre proceedings' and the publication of the PLO working group report 2021 including best practice guidance.</p> | <p>September 2022</p>  | <p>Planning</p>                            |
| <p><b>Joint Inspection Child Protection Arrangements</b></p>   | <p>Cross-inspectorate approach. Area to be determined. We will complete a further four multi agency joint inspections. We will publish a national report in late 2023.</p>   | <p>Autumn 202 – Spring 2023</p>                                  | <p>Planning</p>                            |
| <p><b>Cafcass Assurance Check</b></p>  | <p>CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of Cafcass Cymru. We will evaluate our approach and will consult on our revised approach in late 2022.<br/>           Assurance check completed. Drafting letter. Due to be published August 2022</p>  | <p>September – December 2022<br/><br/>           August 2022</p> | <p>Review<br/><br/>           Drafting</p> |

## Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published since January 2022

| Report title   | Publication date and link to report |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Tackling the Planned Care Backlog in Wales – and waiting times data tool | <a href="#">May 2022</a>            |
| The new Curriculum for Wales   | <a href="#">May 2022</a>            |
| Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary                              | <a href="#">April 2022</a>          |
| Direct Payments for Adult Social Care                                    | <a href="#">April 2022</a>          |
| Local Government Financial Sustainability data tool                      | <a href="#">February 2022</a>       |
| Joint Working Between Emergency Services (including data tool)           | <a href="#">January 2022</a>        |

## Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress/planned)<sup>1</sup>

| Title   | Anticipated publication date |
|---|------------------------------|
| NHS finances data tool update   | July 2022                    |
| Welsh Community Care Information System<br><br>(Update for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee)   | July 2022                    |
| COVID response and recovery/Welsh Government grants management – third sector support<br><br>(Briefing for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee) | July 2022                    |
| Climate change – baseline review <sup>2</sup>   | July/August 2022             |
| Sustainable Tourism in Wales’ National Parks <sup>3</sup>   | July 2022                    |
| Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives   | July 2022                    |

<sup>1</sup> 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 Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

<sup>2</sup> An initial overview report followed by a more detailed evidence paper.

<sup>3</sup> Summary based on local audit work.

| Title   | Anticipated publication date                                 |
|---|--|
| Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources | July 2022  |
| Welsh Government workforce  | August 2022  |
| Orthopaedic services  | August/September 2022  |
| Equality impact assessment  | August/September 2022  |
| Quality governance in the NHS   | September 2022   |
| Flood risk management   | September 2022   |
| Cyber resilience  | October 2022   |
| Digital inclusion/Broadband infrastructure                            | October 2022   |
| National Fraud Initiative (summary report)                            | October 2022   |
| Welsh Government accounts commentary                                  | To be confirmed – plans for this work have been under review |
| COVID-19 response and recovery – business support                     | To be confirmed  |
| Affordable housing  | To be confirmed  |

## Good Practice Exchange resources

| Title  | Link to resource  |
|--|---|
| <p>Direct Payments Provision – A webinar discussing our report on Direct Payments Provision and how they can be a key part in implementing the principles of the Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014</p>            | <p><a href="#">Direct Payments Provision webinar recording</a></p>            |
| <p>Responding to the Climate Emergency in Wales<br/>A webinar discussing emerging findings from our baseline review of public bodies' arrangements to respond to the Welsh Government's carbon reduction targets for 2030.</p> | <p><a href="#">Responding to the Climate Emergency in Wales recording</a></p> |
| <p>Covid Perspectives: A series of recorded conversations learning how organisations have adapted to the extended period of uncertainty following the initial covid emergency.</p>   | <p><a href="#">Good Practice   Audit Wales</a></p>                            |

## Recent Audit Wales Blogs

| Title   | Publication date        |
|---|-------------------------|
| <p><a href="#">Direct Payments in Wales</a></p>                                 | <p>15 June 2022</p>     |
| <p><a href="#">Unscheduled Care in Wales – a system under real pressure</a></p> | <p>21 April 2022</p>    |
| <p><a href="#">Skills Competition Wales</a></p>                                 | <p>18 February 2022</p> |

| Title  | Publication date |
|--|------------------|
| <u>Cyber resilience – one year on</u>  | 9 February 2022  |
| <u>Helping to tell the story through numbers</u><br>(Local government financial sustainability data tool)            | 3 February 2022  |
| <u>Call for clearer information on climate change spending</u>   | 2 February 2022  |
| <u>Actions speak louder than words</u><br>(Building social resilience and self-reliance in citizens and communities) | 14 January 2022  |