No.	Name - Inspection /Review	Publication Date	Date noted by Governance & Audit Committee	Status of Report	Scrutiny Committee responsible for monitoring action plan (or other monitoring arrangements)	Date Presented to Scrutiny	Target date for update to Governance & Audit Committee on the monitoring of progress (for assurance purposes)	Responsible Officer	Number of accepted recommendations	Date of update received by Governance & Audit Committee on monitoring of progress	Recommendations for Local Government
1	Neath Port Talbot Council - Assurance and Risk Assessment 2021-22 Financial Position Update	Jan-23	17.03.2023	Local Letter	Cabinet	17.05.2023	16.06.2023	Huw Jones	No recommendations	16.06.2023	No Recommendations listed
2	Together we can' - Community Resilience and Self-Reliance	Jan-23	17.03.2023	National	Cabinet	TBD	16.06.2023	TBD	2 recommendations for local government	16.06.2023	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. 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
3	A Missed Opportunity' – Social Enterprises	Dec-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	TBD	16.06.2023	TBD	3 recommendations for local government	17.03.2023	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 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.
4	A Picture of Flood Risk Management	Dec-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
5	Poverty in Wales data tool	Nov-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
6	"Time for Change" – Poverty in Wales	Oct-22	12.01.2023	National	Cabinet	TBD	16.06.2023	N/A	2 recommendations for Welsh Government / 6 recommendations for local government	17.03.2023	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; • 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 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. 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. 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 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 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
7	Assurance and Risk Assessment Progress – Carbon Reduction	Oct-22	12.01.2023	Local Letter	Envrionment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board	20.01.2023	17.03.2023	Andrew Jarrett	1 recommendation for local government	17.03.2023	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.
8	National Fraud Initiative 2020-2021	Oct-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 recommendations for local government	17.03.2023	All participants in the NFI exercise should ensure that they maximise the benefits of their participation. They should consider whether it is possible to work more efficiently on the NFI matches by reviewing the guidance section within the NFI secure web application. Audit committees, or equivalent, and officers leading the NFI should review the NFI self-appraisal checklist. This will ensure they are fully informed of their organisation's planning and progress in the 2022-23 NFI exercise. Where local auditors recommend improving the timeliness and rigour with which NFI matches are reviewed, NFI participants should take appropriate action
9	Equality Impact Assessments: More than a Tick Box Exercise	Sep-22	12.01.2023	National	Cabinet	N/A	17.03.2023	N/A	1 recommendations for local government	17.03.2023	R4 While there are examples of good practice related to distinct stages of the EIA process, all public bodies have lessons to learn about their overall approach. Public bodies should review their overall approach to EIAs considering the findings of this report and the detailed guidance available from the EHRC and the Practice Hub. We recognise that developments in response to our other recommendations and the Welsh Government's review of the PSED Wales specific regulations may have implications for current guidance in due course
10	Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 : Evidence Report	Aug-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
11	The Welsh Community Care Information System	Jul-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
12	Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030	Jul-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
13	New Curriculum for Wales	May-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
14	Direct Payments for Adult Social Care	Apr-22	12.01.2023	National	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Cabinet Board	N/A	17.03.2023	Andrew Jarrett	1 recommendations for Welsh Government / 9 recommendations for Welsh Government & Local government	17.03.2023	R1 Review public information in discussion with service users and carers to ensure it is clear, concise and fully explains what they need to know about Direct Payments. R2 Undertake additional promotional work to encourage take up of Direct Payments. R3 Ensure advocacy services are considered at the first point of contact to provide independent advice on Direct Payments to service users and carers. R4 Ensure information about Direct Payments is available at the front door to social care and are included in the initial discussion on the available care options for service users and carers. R5 Provide training to social workers on Direct Payments to ensure they fully understand their potential and feel confident promoting it to service users and carers. R6 Work together to develop a joint Recruitment and Retention Plan for Personal Assistants. R7 Clarify policy expectations in plain accessible language and set out: • what Direct Payments can pay for; • how application and assessment processes, timescales and review processes work; • how monitoring individual payments and the paperwork required to verify payments will work; • how unused monies are to be treated and whether they can be banked; and • how to administer and manage pooled budgets. Public information should be reviewed regularly (at least every two years) to ensure they are working effectively and remain relevant. R9 Work together to establish a system to fully evaluate Direct Payments that captures all elements of the process – information, promotion, assessing, managing and evaluating impact on wellbeing and independence. R10 Annually publish performance information for all elements of Direct Payments to enable a whole system view of delivery and impact to support improvement
15	NPT Annual Audit Summary 2021	Mar-22	12.01.2023	Local	Council	16.03.2022	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed
16	Local Government Financial Sustainability Tool	Feb-22	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed
17	Care Home Commissioning for Older People	Dec-21	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 recommemdations for Welsh Government / No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed No Recommendations listed
18	Audit of NPT's Assessment of Performance (Dec 21) (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 12/01/2022 14:01 (npt.gov.uk)	Dec-21	12.01.2023	Local	Cabinet	12.01.2022	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed