

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
	Neath Port Talbot Council - Springing Forward - Strategic Management of Assets	Dec-23	26.01.2024	Local	TBC	TBC	21.03.2024	Nicola Pearce	3 Recommendations	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In developing its new Corporate Asset Management Strategy, the Council should put the Sustainable Development Principle at the heart of its considerations. In particular setting out its long-term vision and the outcomes it wants to achieve over the short, medium and longer term. R2 Strategic asset management planning and delivery <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 R3 Strategic asset management governance and monitoring <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)	Dec-23	26.01.2024	Local	Cabinet	14.02.2024	21.03.2024	Noelwyn Daniel	2 recommendation	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1 Workforce planning and delivery: <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. R2 Workforce governance and monitoring: <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	Nov-23	26.01.2024	Local	Council	20.03.2024	TBC	Noelwyn Daniel	5 recommendations	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1 Current model and role of scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy development Performance monitoring Holding cabinet members to account throughout the decision-making process Following up outcomes of previous recommendations or decisions Public engagement 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. 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. 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. R5 Evaluation - The Council should strengthen its arrangements for assessing the effectiveness and impact of scrutiny.
	Audit Wales Equality Report 2022-23	Nov-23	26.01.2024	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	N/A	No recommendations listed
	Neath Port Talbot Council - Digital Strategy Review	Oct-23	26.01.2024	Local	Cabinet	28.11.2023	21.03.2024	Noelwyn Daniel	1 recommendation	N/A	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.
	Audit Wales Interim Report 2023-2024	Oct-23	26.01.2024	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	TBA	No recommendations listed
	Neath Port Talbot Council - Setting of Well-being Objectives	Sep-23	12.10.2023	Local Letter	Cabinet	20.09.2023	21.03.2023	Noelwyn Daniel	1 recommendation	TBA	In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its WBOs, the Council should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK	Sep-23	12.10.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nicola Pearce	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed - report shared with relevant officers
	Springing Forward: Lessons for our work on workforce and assets	Sep-23	12.10.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	Noelwyn Daniel	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed - report shared with relevant officers. Awaiting draft local report.
	Cracks in the Foundations' - Building Safety in Wales	Aug-23	12.10.2023	National		12.10.2023					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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	Apr-23	16.06.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed	
Digital inclusion in Wales	Mar-23	16.06.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No recommendations	16.06.2023	No Recommendations listed	
Neath Port Talbot Council - Annual Audit Summary 2022	Mar-23	16.06.2023	Local Letter	Council	26.04.2023	N/A	Karen Jones	No recommendations	N/A	No Recommendations listed	
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	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	
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	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	
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	
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	
“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	<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> <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	Oct-22	12.01.2023	Local Letter	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board	20.01.2023	17.03.2023	Nicola Pearce	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.	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

											Where local auditors recommend improving the timeliness and rigour with which NFI matches are reviewed, NFI participants should take appropriate action
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
Care Home Commissioning for Older People	Dec-21	12.01.2023	National	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 recommendations for Welsh Government / No recommendations for local government	N/A	No Recommendations listed	
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	