

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Powys County Council

Quarterly Update: 31 March 2022

Work Programme Consultation

In early March 2022, we launched a [consultation](#) on the Auditor General's work programme for 2022-23 and beyond. We have requested responses by 8 April 2022, if possible, but will be considering responses received after this time to inform our ongoing work programme planning. We have circulated the consultation widely across our stakeholder base.

Annual Audit Summary

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

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2021-22 statement of accounts	Providing the audit opinion on the Authority's 2021-22 statement of accounts, including its Housing Revenue Account.	October 2022	Ongoing. Draft accounts due to be presented for audit at the end of June prior to the final audit commencing.
Audit of the Powys Pension Fund 2021-22 statement of accounts	Providing the audit opinion on the 2021-22 Powys Pension Fund statement of accounts.	November 2022	Ongoing. Draft accounts due to be presented for audit in the summer. Final audit work due to commence in the autumn following the completion of the Council's statutory accounts.

Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Financial Sustainability	A project common to all local councils that will assess financial sustainability in the light of current and anticipated future challenges building on work undertaken during 2019-20.	Complete	<p>Local report published July 2021</p> <p>National Summary Report published September 2021</p>
Scrutiny Follow-Up	<p>Follow-up Review of Scrutiny Arrangements from 2018.</p> <p>This review sought to answer the question: Has the Council acted on Audit Wales' previous proposals for improvement and identified further opportunities for improvement?</p>	Complete	Report published October 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

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Improvement reporting audit	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Complete	Certificate issued September 2021
Assurance and Risk Assessment	<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 Powys County 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 • At Powys Council, the project will also likely focus on areas identified in the 2020-21 ARA, including: Housing, Highways, Waste and Recycling • ARA work includes ongoing engagement with the Council 	Ongoing	Ongoing

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future	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.	October 2021 – June 2022	Ongoing
Review of Planning Services	Through the review we will seek to gain an insight into the Council’s Planning Service. We will have regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Planning Service and the extent to which the Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in delivering the Service.	May/June 2022	Ongoing
Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements	The review will focus on the Council’s arrangements for safeguarding. This review will seek to answer the question: Has the Council acted upon the recommendations and proposals for improvement contained in the national and local reports of the Auditor General published in 2014 and 2015?	Self-Assessment and accompanying documents due from the Council May 2022 with fieldwork July 2022	Ongoing

Local government national studies planned/in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Powys County Council
Direct Payments	Review of how local authorities manage and promote the use of Direct payments	Publication April 2022	Publication	No – work being delivered via Direct Payment Forum and a selection of follow-up interviews
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 AGW's 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

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Powys County 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 has worked closely with Directors of Education to review their inspection guidance for local government education services (LGES) to reflect the experiences of the pandemic. Estyn has inspected three local authorities during the autumn and spring terms. The Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil reports have been published and the Torfaen report will be published on 18 May.	LGES inspections to resume from the late autumn term	N/A

Estyn planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Curriculum Reform thematic review	<u>Curriculum for Wales – how are regional consortia and local authorities supporting schools</u> published on 24 March.	Evidence collecting in September/October – published in March	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 a cyclic programme of assurance checks, improvement checks and performance evaluation inspections.	April 2022- March 2023	In progress
National review	Support for disabled children and their families.	Published	Complete
Development	CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of local authorities. CIW will consult further regarding its approach.	May-June 2022	In progress

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2020-21	Completed	March 2021	Published
Annual meeting with Statutory Directors of Social Services	CIW will meet with all Directors of Social Services	December 2022 and January 2023	Planning
National review of Care Planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline pre-proceedings	<p>Purpose of the review: 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</p> <p>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>	September 2022	Planning
Joint Inspection Child Protection Arrangements	Cross-inspectorate approach. Area to be determined.	Autumn 2022	Planning

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2021-22	Following the publication of the 2020-21 report planning is underway for the next report.	2022-23	Planning
Cafcass Assurance Check	CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of Cafcass Cymru.	2022	Planning

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

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Local Government Financial Sustainability Data Tool	February 2022
Joint Working Between Emergency Services (including data tool)	January 2022
Care Home Commissioning for Older People	December 2021
The Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme	November 2021

Report title	Publication date and link to report
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
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee governance arrangements	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](#).

Report title	Publication date and link to report
At your Discretion – Local Government Discretionary Services	April 2021
Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic	April 2021

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress/planned)²

Title	Anticipated publication date
Welsh Government accounts commentary	To be confirmed – plans for this work are now under review
Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary	April 2022
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	April 2022
Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives	May 2022
COVID response and recovery/Welsh Government grants management – third sector support	May 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.

Title	Anticipated publication date
Curriculum reform	May 2022
NHS waiting times data-tool and planned care commentary	May 2022
Welsh Community Care Information System follow-up	May 2022
Orthopaedic services	May/June 2022
NHS finances data tool update	June 2022
Welsh Government workforce	June 2022
Equality impact assessment	July 2022
Climate change – baseline review	July 2022
Broadband infrastructure/digital inclusion	Autumn 2022
Flood risk management	Autumn 2022
COVID response and recovery/Welsh Government grants management – other	To be confirmed
Affordable housing	To be confirmed

Forthcoming Good Practice Exchange events and publications

Title	Anticipated publication/event date
<p>Direct Payments Provision – A webinar discussing the upcoming 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>6 April 2022 – recording will be published following the event.</p>
<p>Climate Change Event - (Title to be confirmed) 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>19 May 2022 (provisional)</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>Good Practice Audit Wales</p>

Recent Audit Wales Blogs

Title	Publication date
<p>Cyber resilience – one year on</p>	<p>9 February 2022</p>
<p>Helping to tell the story through numbers (local government financial sustainability data tool)</p>	<p>3 February 2022</p>

Title	Publication date
<u>Call for clearer information on climate change spending</u>	2 February 2022
<u>Actions speak louder than words</u> (building social resilience and self-reliance in citizens and communities)	14 January 2022
<u>Wales' schools face the alarming challenge of the lowest birth-rate in 100 years</u>	21 December 2021