

City & County of Swansea Audit Committee Update – July 2016

Financial audit work 2015-16 – City & County of Swansea Pension Fund

Activity	Scope	Status
Audit Plan	Plan of financial audit work for 2015-16.	Audit Committee April 2016.
Financial Statements/Annual Audit Letter	Audit of the Pension Fund's 2015-16 financial statements and Annual Audit Letter.	Audit Committee September 2016.

Financial audit work 2015-16 – City & County of Swansea

Activity	Scope	Status
Audit Plan	Plan of financial audit work for 2015-16.	Audit Committee April 2016.
Financial Statements 2015-16	Audit of the Council's 2015-16 financial statements.	Audit Committee September 2016.
Certification of Grants and Returns 2015-16	Summary of grants and returns certification work 2015-16.	Audit Committee March 2017.
Annual Audit Letter	Report summarising our 2015-16 financial audit work.	Audit Committee December 2016.

Performance work 2015-2016 - City & County of Swansea

2015-16 Improvement Assessment	Scope	Status
Corporate Improvement Plan Audit	Review Council arrangements to secure continuous improvement, its progress against previous proposals for improvement and the setting of improvement objectives for the year.	IAL1 letter of certification complete.
'Improvement Plan' Audit	Review of the Council's published plans for delivering on improvement objectives.	IAL2 letter of certification complete.
Annual Improvement Report (AIR)	Annual report summarising the audit work undertaken in the last year which also includes a summary of the key findings from reports issued by 'relevant regulators'.	Outstanding.
Corporate Assessment Follow up	<p>Review of the Council's performance Management Arrangements. Key questions: Is the authority's approach to performance management enabling effective decision making and supporting service improvement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do officers have robust and effective arrangements for developing corporate and service plans and priorities? • Do officers use performance information to drive improvement? • Are officers equipped with the skills and knowledge to analyse and use performance information to the full? 	Draft report being finalised.

2015-16 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>The strategic approach of councils to income generation and charging for services</p>	<p>This study is being delivered under our annual “delivering with less” programme and the study will involve an audit of councils’ strategic approach to charging; the approval process for setting and reviewing charging within a council; the impact of charging on services and service users; and the legislative basis for charging.</p>	<p>The report has been drafted and is going through internal clearance, for example we are attending the Society of Welsh Treasurers meeting in July 2016 to discuss the findings.</p>
<p>Council funding of third-sector services</p>	<p>Again, under the theme of delivering with less, this study will look at the level of investment in voluntary sector services to benchmark findings against 2009-10 and earlier assessments; review of the measures used to judge the effectiveness of funding in a tracer area; review decision making processes to determine whether the principles of good governance in funding third sector services are being followed. A key component for the work is the formation of a steering group with membership drawn from WCVA, Citizen Advice, WLGA/LGDU and WAO.</p>	<p>Drafting the report with a view to publish in late summer/early autumn.</p>
<p>The effectiveness of local community safety partnerships</p>	<p>This study will look at the effectiveness of community safety partnerships and the impact of the work of partnerships in delivering improvement within their communities. The review will be delivered at a Welsh Government; Police and Crime Commissioner; and local authority level.</p>	<p>Publication in late June.</p>

2016-17 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>National Report recommendation follow up</p>	<p>Follow up and evaluate councils' progress on implementing recommendations contained in our national studies published in 2014-2015. The output will inform local work planning and also provide a national picture of how WAO recommendations are being implemented by councils. We will also examine councils' arrangements for monitoring recommendations. This includes dealing with both WAO national study recommendations and their mechanisms for considering recommendations more generally.</p>	<p>Follow up at agreed intervals at monthly meetings</p>
<p>Improving wellbeing through housing adaptations</p>	<p>We will review how adaptations prevent access to and speed up discharge from hospitals. The work will look at how health use adaptations to underpin their activity as well as how efficient and effective organisations are at procuring and delivering adaptations work.</p>	<p>A project brief is being drafted. We anticipate finalising and issuing by the end of July 2016.</p>

2016-17 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>Strategic commissioning of learning disability services by local authorities</p>	<p>The review will focus on learning disability schemes as a tracer in local authorities and will assess how effectively strategic commissioning is being delivered. Fieldwork will focus on both the corporate approach to strategic commissioning but also use findings from the tracer area to understand how effective operational arrangements are. We are working with CSSIW and SSIA and will be building on recent national inspection and support work on learning disabilities.</p>	<p>The project brief is being drafted and we have begun working on collating data from published sources. On-site fieldwork will be carried out between June 2016 and October 2016.</p>
<p>How local government manages dependency and demand - Homelessness services</p>	<p>The study will focus on a specific tracer area of homelessness in local authorities using the recent prevention duties placed on local authorities to judge how demand for services is managed.</p>	<p>The project brief is being drafted and the project being set up.</p>