

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – City & County of Swansea Council

Quarterly Update: 31 December 2021

Annual Audit Summary

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

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts	The Council's draft statement of accounts for 2020-21 were received on 31st May 2021. Our audit commenced upon the receipt of the accounts and our qualified audit opinion was issued on 7th September 2021.	June to September 2021	Completed
Audit of Swansea Pension Fund 2020-	The Pension Fund's draft statement of accounts and annual report for 2020-21	August to November 2021	Completed

21 statement of accounts	were received on 29th July 2021. Our audit commenced upon the receipt of the accounts and was completed and reported in November 2021.		
2020-21 Grant Claim Audit Work	We have been requested to undertake certification work on the following Council grant claims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit Subsidy • NHS Pooled Budget return • Teachers' Pensions Return • Non domestic rates 	October 2021 to January 2022	In progress

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 considering current and anticipated future challenges building on work undertaken during 2019-20.	September 2021	<u>Final report issued September 2021</u> <u>National Summary Report published September 2021</u>
Coming out of Covid – working in a hybrid world	A local project working together with officers to share learning/knowledge on coming out of covid to inform its plans to move forward into the 'new normal'; build connections and relationships to support the Council to assure itself and help in explaining and inspiring the way forward.	July – January 2022	Reporting Feb 2022

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.	N/A	N/A
Improvement reporting audit	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Dec 2021	Complete
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 Swansea Council the project has focused 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 • risk management 	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.	Planned for Autumn 2021 onwards to look at two tracers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workforce tracers • asset tracers 	Fieldwork Ongoing
‘Achieving Better Together’ Transformation - A local project to ‘review’ new transformation arrangements	<p>The focus of the work is real time working alongside the Council in taking forward its new transformation arrangements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remobilise the Council • refocus the Council to be efficient and effective in delivering its Corporate Plan and current priorities, and • reshape to look beyond the next 2 years in setting out its new Corporate Plan building on ‘Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future’. <p>We will work alongside the Council as it further develops its recovery plan as a ‘critical friend’ and in learning from and sharing practice and assurance and insight.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing

Local government national studies planned / in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at City and County of Swansea
Direct Payments	Review of how local authorities manage and promote the use of Direct payments	Publication Winter 2021-22	Drawing conclusions mid-October, drafting and publication early 2022	No – work being delivered via Direct Payment Forum and a selection of follow up interviews
Emergency Services	Review of how well emergency services (blue light) collaborate	Publication winter 2021-22	Clearance with publication end of January 2022	N/A
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 AGWs 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
Social Enterprises	Review of how local	Autumn 2021 -	Fieldwork	Yes - interview with nominated officer at the council

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at City and County of Swansea
	authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	Autumn 2022		
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 have worked closely with Directors of Education to review their inspection guidance for local government education services to reflect the experiences of the pandemic. The updated guidance (published on 1 July 2021) will be piloted on the first inspection and feedback will be sought on whether any further refinements need to be made.	LGES inspections to resume from late Autumn term	N/A
Curriculum Reform thematic review	Regional consortia and local authority support for curriculum reform.	Evidence collecting in Sept/Oct - publish in early February	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 an annual programme of assurance checks, performance evaluation inspections and risk-based inspections	April 2022- March 2023	Planning
National review	Support for disabled children and their families.	Published	Complete
Follow-up	CIW will be following up on areas for improvement identified in the Assurance Checks or through risk-based inspection activity with individual local authorities where necessary.	Ongoing	One follow-up risk-based inspection has occurred and due to be published. Two further follow up assurance checks have occurred and due to be published in due course
Inspection	Risk based inspection activity will continue where required.	As required	No inspections are scheduled at this time (up until April 2022)

Development	CIW will continue to develop its approach to inspection and review of local authorities	April 2022	In progress
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2020-21	Annual monitoring report in draft format currently – this is a joint report with Health Inspectorate Wales	December 2021	In progress
Annual meeting with Statutory Directors of Social Services	CIW will meet with all Directors of Social Services	Dec 2021 and Jan 2022	In progress

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

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Care Home Commissioning for Older People	December 2021
The Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme	November 2021
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

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Picture of Public Services¹	<u>September 2021</u>
Town Centre Regeneration	<u>September 2021</u>
Student finances	<u>August 2021</u>
NHS finances data-tool 2020-21	<u>June 2021</u>
Rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Wales	<u>June 2021</u>
Quality governance arrangements at Cwm Taf UHB – follow up	<u>May 2021</u>
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee governance arrangements	<u>May 2021</u>
At your Discretion - Local Government Discretionary Services	<u>April 2021</u>
Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic	<u>April 2021</u>

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](#).

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs due to be published during 2021-22 (and other work in progress/planned)²

Title	Anticipated publication date
Welsh Government accounts commentary	February 2022
Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives	February 2022
Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary	February/March 2022
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	February 2022
COVID response & recovery / Welsh Government grants management – third sector support	February 2022
NHS waiting times data-tool and planned care commentary	March 2022
Welsh Government workforce	February/March 2022
Orthopaedic services	March 2022
Curriculum reform	Spring 2022
Equality impact assessment	Spring 2022
Climate change – baseline review	Spring/summer 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
COVID response & recovery / Welsh Government grants management - other	TBC
Affordable housing	TBC
Broadband infrastructure	TBC
Flood risk management	TBC

Forthcoming Good Practice Exchange events and publications

Title	Anticipated publication/event date
Post event resources including session recordings for the Springing Forward event on organisational resilience held on 9/12/21	Late January 2022
Direct Payments Event (title TBC)	March 30 2022