

Scrutiny & Monitoring of External Audit / Inspection / Regulatory Reports (2022/23)

The Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee and Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee decide between them the route that specific reports should take, i.e., whether reported to and monitored by G & A Committee or SPC, as deemed appropriate.

External reports that are relevant for Scrutiny are allocated either to the Scrutiny Programme Committee or referred to relevant Scrutiny Performance Panels and scheduled for discussion, as appropriate.

When a report has been issued to the Council and is available for Scrutiny, the relevant Scrutiny Chair / Convener is made aware, and it can be highlighted to Committee / Panel members within the next available meeting agenda.

Reporting to Scrutiny will typically require relevant Cabinet Members / Officers to attend meetings to discuss implications and present action plans along with statements about progress. Scrutiny Officers will engage with relevant Cabinet Members / Officers to forward plan the scheduling of Committee / Panel discussion at the right time, e.g., with a response / action plan (showing any progress to date), making the best use of time given pressure on scrutiny work plans / workloads.

The Committee / Panel can then receive assurance from Council leads about their response to any external reports and provide challenge to ensure improvement, making observations, and arranging further monitoring as necessary.

Depending on content, every report may not require the same level of involvement and consideration (given degree of importance or interest) therefore it will be up to relevant scrutiny lead member(s) to determine best approach in dealing with relevant reports. In certain cases, the Committee / Panel may take an exceptional approach to reports, e.g., being provided with information outside of meetings and only scheduling for discussion at a meeting with relevant Cabinet Member / Officer where there are specific issues, concerns about action / progress. Flexible approaches will relieve pressure on workloads and ensure best use of time and resources.

The Governance & Audit Committee is provided with a log of reports being dealt with by Scrutiny so that it can maintain an oversight of monitoring and be assured that reports are being effectively followed up.

Report Title	Type of Report	Lead Cabinet Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee / Performance Panel	Report(s) to Scrutiny	Monitoring by Scrutiny Complete (YES / NO?)
Direct Payments for Adult Social Care (published April 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Care Services	Adult Services Panel	8 November 2022	YES
Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 (July 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Service Transformation	Climate Change & Nature Panel	10 January 2023	YES
A report on education services in City and County of Swansea (September 2022)	Estyn	Education & Learning	Education Panel	27 October 2022 15 December 2022	NO Further monitoring scheduled for 15 June 2023
Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise? (September 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Equalities & Culture	Service Improvement & Finance	6 December 2022	YES
‘Time for Change’ – Poverty in Wales (November 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Economy, Finance & Strategy AND Well-being	Scrutiny Programme Committee	17 January 2023	NO Tackling Poverty is an annual item at Committee – actions arising from Audit to be followed up in Dec 2023

‘A missed opportunity’ – Social Enterprises (November 2022)	Audit Wales (National)	Care Services	Adult Services Panel	tbc	
Regenerating Town Centres in Wales (September 2021)	Audit Wales (National)	Investment, Regeneration and Tourism	Development & Regeneration Panel	20 March 2023	YES

NOTE:

Estyn: All individual School Estyn Inspection outcome summaries and links to full reports are included in Education Scrutiny Performance Panel agendas for information / awareness. The Panel will follow up on any where there are concerns and some when good practice has been highlighted.