

Bridgend County Borough Council

Audit Committee Update – September 2018

Performance Audit work

2017-18 performance audit work	Scope	Status
Improvement Plan Audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to set improvement objectives.	Complete
Performance Audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to publish a self-assessment of performance in the previous year by 31 October.	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'	With Council for comment
WFG Year one commentary	Year one commentary on WFG/Baseline Gather evidence on how the 44 bodies are beginning to respond to the requirements of the WFG Act and identify examples of notable emerging practice. There was no local report, the baseline informed a commentary published summer 2018.	Complete. Link to our published national report.
Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future	This review examined the impact of the WFG Act on the work of scrutiny committees including PSB scrutiny, facilitating improvement and sharing of good practice.	Complete
Service User Review	To gather evidence and insight into the extent to which services respond to the needs and expectations of service users both in their design and delivery. Our work at the Council will focus on Housing Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants.	Drafting.
Aligning Levers for Change	The purpose of this review is to support the development of local action	Complete

2017-18 performance audit work	Scope	Status
	that will promote positive practice and help identify barriers to be addressed. The review will assist councils to refine current arrangements in Councils by promoting what is working well, identifying any barriers and developing local improvement opportunities.	
Digital Risk	An overview of the level of digital risk the Council faces. The diagnostic will be used by the Wales Audit Office to identify 'potential' digital risks and issues at the Council. Potential risks identified will be used to focus auditors on areas where further, more specific Information management and technology related performance work might be needed.	Reporting

2018-19 performance audit work	Scope	Status
Improvement Plan audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to publish a self-assessment of performance in the previous year by 31 October.	Audit complete. Final certificate issued 19 th April 2018.
Performance audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to set improvement objectives.	Not started. Due October/November 2018
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'	Not started. Likely timescales June/July 2019
Financial planning and transformation	We will follow up the proposals for improvement made in our savings planning report issued to the Council in April 2017 and undertake ongoing monitoring of the Council's transformation programme, providing real-time challenge during the	Planning

	year.	
Assurance and risk assessment	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.	Underway
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations	Examination of the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principles when taking steps to meet the following wellbeing objective: Deliver the Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus Programme (e.g. the Cosy Corner developments and the Rest Bay café development) to grow the value of tourism in the economy, increase employment and business opportunities, and support a range of cultural, sporting and business events.	Planning
Environmental health	Review of the arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver environmental health services building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General as part of the ‘delivering with less’ themed studies.	Planning
Corporate safeguarding arrangements	Review of the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding arrangements building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General in this area.	Planning

Services to rural communities	The study will focus on whether local government uses its resources to deliver services that meet the needs of rural communities today and in the longer term.	Drafting the national report.
Using data effectively	<p>This study will seek to identify whether councils' corporate management arrangements for managing and using data are leading to better decision making in the use of resources.</p> <p>The study will collect information from all councils in Wales.</p> <p>A short survey was issued across all councils in Wales</p>	Drafting the national report.
2018-19 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
First point of contact assessments under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>The Welsh Government introduced the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act), which focuses on reforming and simplifying the law relating to social services. The 2014 Act introduced new duties for local authorities, local health boards and other public bodies and covers adults, children and their carers, and came into force on 6 April 2016. The study will review first point of contact and assessments for adult social care.</p> <p>Detailed fieldwork in five local authorities. We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Cardiff City Council, Denbighshire County Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council</p>	Project set up
Tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence	In 2015 the Welsh Government passed the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act (the 2015 Act). The overarching objective of the 2015 Act is to improve the Public Sector response to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; provide a strategic focus on these issues; and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services. The review will focus on determining whether local authorities and their partners are effectively	Project set up

	<p>working together to prevent gender-based violence and domestic abuse, and protecting all of the people involved.</p> <p>Our fieldwork sites are Swansea City and County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Flintshire County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</p>	
<p>Planning Services: Improving the wellbeing of Wales</p>	<p>Planning services are an important part of the democratic jigsaw that allows the detailed consideration of proposals to improve the economic prospects of the nation. Good planning decisions can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people and places. Poor planning decisions can have a detrimental impact on people’s wellbeing and can stifle economic development. This study will provide independent assurance that planning authorities are supporting sustainable development and delivering for the future long-term wellbeing of their communities and for Wales</p> <p>We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Bridgend County Borough Council, Gwynedd County Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council and Ceredigion County Council.</p>	<p>Project set up</p>

National Studies	Update and link to report
Waste management (modules 1,2 and 3)	External Clearance
Fiscal devolution in Wales	Scoping
Welsh Government business finance	External Clearance
Youth services	Fieldwork stage
EU Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Drafting
EU Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020	Published August 2018 LINK
Integrated Care Fund	Drafting
Guide to Welsh Public Finances	Published July 2018 LINK
The Welsh Government’s youth concessionary bus fare scheme –	External Clearance

'mytravelpass'

National Fraud Initiative 2016-17

Drafting