

## Bridgend County Borough Council – Work Programme Update 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Status
<b>Audit of the Council's 2019-20 Grants and Returns</b>	The audit of Housing Benefit, Teachers Pension, Non-Domestic Rates and two pooled budgets.	We have completed the audits of all grants and returns. Amendments were required to two claims with one also requiring a qualification letter.
<b>Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts</b>		Our Audit Plan was presented to the April Audit Committee. Our audit work on the 2020-21 statement of accounts has commenced with the aim to sign off the accounts by the end of July.

### Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance audit work to complete	Scope	Status
<b>Recovery Planning</b>	We intend to support and challenge recovery planning in real-time. Collectively	Draft letter issued 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

	<p>we need assurance that recovery takes due account of the multitude of risks, but also that it grasps the opportunities for a different and sustainable future. We have taken the decision to replace the 'prevention' themed work that we set out in audit plans with this work on recovery planning.</p>	
<p><b>Financial Sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Phase 1</b> will be a baseline assessment of the initial impact of Covid-19 on local authorities' financial position that will draw on the year-end position for 2019-20 as well as the position at the end of quarter 1 for 2020-21. The output from phase 1 will be a short national summary report that will include comparative data for year-end 2019-20 as well as a summary of common themes and issues identified by local authorities.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Phase 2</b> will be undertaken over the remainder of 2020-21. This work will draw on the position and themes identified during phase 1 to enable a focus on financial recovery planning. At the conclusion of Phase 2 we will produce a local output for each council and a national summary report.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Phase 1 – Published 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Phase 2 – underway.</p>
<p><b>Review of the Council's arrangements to become a 'Digital Council</b></p>	<p>As a result of our 2019-20 Assurance and Risk Assessment, we agreed with the Council that we would do a piece of work relating to digital.</p>	<p>Revised draft issued 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021</p>

## Performance Audit work

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Status
<p><b>Improvement reporting audit</b></p>	<p>Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.</p>	<p>Not yet started</p>

<b>Annual Audit Summary</b>	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'. Also now combined with the Annual Audit Letter.	Not yet started
<b>Assurance and risk assessment</b>	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.	Ongoing
<b>Thematic work - Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future</b>	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.	Autumn 2021
<b>Follow-up review – Disabled Facilities Grants</b>	Follow up the Council's progress to address the findings from our disabled facilities grants (DFG) review.	Scoping
<b>Review relating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health partnership following the Council's transition to the partnership in 2019.</b>	Scope to be discussed with the Council.	Scoping

## Local Government Studies

<b>2019-20 Local Government Studies work programme</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Follow up review – rough sleeping</b>	Follow up our report published in July 2020 which looked at how public bodies can help to end people sleeping rough in Wales. In the first three months of the pandemic the Welsh Government supported councils	Scoping and set up

	<p>to rehouse over 800 people sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>One of the unexpected outcomes of the lockdown is that rough sleeping has been significantly reduced.</p>	
<b>2020-21 Local Government Studies Programme</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Emergency services</b>	<p>The review will primarily focus on the three main 'blue-light' services but will also consider how they collaborate with allied emergency responders and council emergency planning departments. We will also consider national policy and guidance, and the range of local, regional, and national structures, collaborative and partnership architecture, and funding and delivery arrangements.</p>	Ongoing
<b>Town centre regeneration</b>	<p>The review will primarily focus on the activities of local authorities in regenerating town centres but will also consider how they collaborate with their public sector partners and other stakeholders, including businesses and citizens. We will also consider national policy and guidance, and the range of local, regional, and national structures, collaborative and partnership architecture, and funding and delivery arrangements.</p>	Drafting
<b>Direct payments study</b>	<p>Focusing on value for money, we will review how Local Authorities are overcoming barriers that need to be addressed in increasing the take-up of Direct Payments, including any potential challenges around the local workforce. We will consider what Local Authorities are doing to ensure equitable access to Direct Payment, as well as the arrangements they have in place to gain assurance on whether Direct Payments are delivering what is intended</p>	Fieldwork underway

## Recent National Reports

<b>At your Discretion - Local Government Discretionary Services</b>	Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	Published 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Test, Trace, Protect in Wales</b>	Published 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Providing Free School Meals During Lockdown</b>	Published 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Preparations for the end of Brexit transition</b>	Published 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Covering teachers' absence: Follow-up</b>	Published 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Welsh Community Care Information System</b>	Published 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>The National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2018-20</b>	Published 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Commercialisation in Local Government</b>	Published 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Better law making: the implementation challenge</b>	Published 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 Link is found <a href="#">HERE</a>