

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Bridgend County Borough Council

Quarterly Update: 30 June 2021

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts	To confirm whether the statement of accounts provide a true and fair view.	Audit Opinion by 31 July 2021	Audit work complete. Audit Opinion by 31 July 2021.
Audit of the 2020-21 Returns for Porthcawl Harbour Authority and Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee	To confirm that the returns have been completed correctly.	Audit Opinion by 31 July 2021	Audit work complete. Audit Opinion by 31 July 2021 for Porthcawl Harbour Authority. Audit Opinion by 30 September 2021 for Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 Grants and Returns	Audit of 5 claims as required by the terms and conditions of the grants.	In line with the individual deadlines for each grant claim.	Audit work to be performed Oct to Dec 2021

Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Annual Audit Summary	Annual report summarising the audit work undertaken in 2020-21 which also includes a summary of the key findings from reports	Autumn 2021	Not yet started

	issued by 'relevant regulators'. Also now combined with the Annual Audit Letter		
Financial Sustainability	A project common to all local councils that will assess financial sustainability in light of current and anticipated future challenges building on work undertaken during 2019-20.	Phase 1 Published 6th October 2020 Phase 2 (February – May 2021)	Final report published Oct 2020 Financial Sustainability of Local Government as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic Audit Wales Report being finalised National Summary Report due to be published August 2021
Recovery Planning	We intend to support and challenge recovery planning in real-time. Collectively 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.	May 2020-February 2021	Final letter issued
Review of the Council's arrangements to become a 'Digital Council'	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.	Autumn 2020/Spring 2021	Final report issued June 2021

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Annual Audit Summary	Annual report summarising the audit work undertaken in 2021-22 which also includes a summary of the key findings from reports issued by 'relevant regulators'. Also now combined with the Annual Audit Letter	Autumn 2022	Not yet started
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.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Improvement reporting audit	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	October 2021	Not yet started
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. At BCBC the project is likely to focus 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 • statutory building compliance 	Throughout the year	Underway
Springing Forward – Examining the	As the world moves forward, learning from the global pandemic, this review looks at how effectively	Planned for Autumn 2021 onwards – to	Project scoping

building blocks for a sustainable future	councils are strengthening their ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of services, including those delivered in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.	be confirmed following scoping.	
Follow-up review – Disabled Facilities Grants	Follow up the Council's progress to address the findings from our disabled facilities grants (DFG) review.	July/August 2021	Underway
Review relating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health partnership following the Council's transition to the partnership in 2019.	Scope to be discussed with the Council. Running a group discussion with strategic managers representing the four sovereign bodies to assist in determining the scope on 17 th August 2021.	Planned for Autumn 2021 onwards – to be confirmed following scoping	Scoping

Local government national studies planned / in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at BCBC
Town Centre Regeneration	Review of how local authorities and their partners are addressing town centre regeneration	Publication September 2020	Drafting	Officers interviewed and members surveyed.
Direct Payments	Review of how local authorities manage and promote the use of Direct payments	Publication Autumn 2021	Fieldwork complete; survey of recipients and providers currently underway	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 Autumn 2021	Fieldwork until end of July	No
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	TBC	Project set up	No – work being delivered via Homelessness and Supporting People Forum
Poverty	Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty.	TBC	Project set up	TBC
Social Enterprises	Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	TBC	Project set up	TBC
Community Resilience	Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities	TBC	Project set up	TBC

Estyn

Estyn planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Local Government Education Services (LGES) 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) 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
Assurance	CIW will be completing its work on Assurance Checks including publication of a national overview report.	July – September 2021	In progress
National review	Support for disabled children and their families.	tbc	In progress - Drafting report
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.	tbc	Not yet started
Inspection	Risk based inspection activity will continue where required.	tbc	No inspections are scheduled at this time

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

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

Audit Wales National reports and other outputs due to be published during 2021-22 (and other work in progress/planned)¹

Title	Anticipated publication date
NHS waiting times data-tool	July 2021
Supporting NHS staff well-being	August 2021
Administration of student finance	August 2021
Care home commissioning	August 2021
Picture of Public Services	September 2021
Warm Homes Programme	September 2021
Welsh Government accounts commentary	Autumn 2021
Welsh Government workforce	Autumn 2021
Orthopaedic services	Autumn 2021
Unscheduled care	Autumn 2021
Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources	Autumn 2021
Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives	Autumn 2021

¹ 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 a new Public Accounts Committee following the Senedd elections.

Curriculum reform	Winter 2021
COVID response & recovery / Welsh Government grants management	TBC
Equality impact assessment	TBC
Climate change – baseline review	TBC
NHS structured assessment 2021 summary commentary	TBC
Affordable housing	TBC
Broadband infrastructure	TBC
Flood risk management	TBC

Forthcoming Good Practice Exchange events and publications

Title	Anticipated publication/event date
Town Centre Regeneration	September 2 nd 2021
<p>The Good Practice Exchange Team are currently in the process of finalising the programme of events for the remainder of 2021/ 2022. Once finalised, our key contacts across local authorities will be notified and details of those events and how to register will be available on our website. Please keep a look out for an email update over the coming weeks'</p>	N/A