

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough 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 January 2022	Publish January 2022	Final report issued to Council 6 January 2022.

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.	July – September 2021	Work is complete and unqualified opinion issues.
Grant Certification	Certification of returns for various grants and subsidies for various bodies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Work and Pensions • Teachers' Pensions Authority • Non-Domestic Rate Pool 	October 2021 – January 2022	Work is mostly complete and there are no significant issues to report.

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwm Taf and LAs involved in Pooled Budgets 		

Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Review relating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health partnership	A review (covering RCT, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil councils and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board) to gain assurance that the health board and the three councils are working together effectively through the aegis of the Transformation Leadership Programme Board to support regional integrated working across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.	October 2021 – March 2022	Majority of fieldwork complete. Drawing conclusions. Feedback session with bodies is being rearranged.

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

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Improvement reporting audit	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	October / November 2021	Completed. Certificate issued to Council in November 2021
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 the Council 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 	April 2021 – March 2022	Underway
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.	<p>Fieldwork completed for Asset Management in December 2021</p> <p>Fieldwork for Workforce tracer planned for January 2022</p>	Underway

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Digital review	Project to understand the Council's progress and plans around its digital agenda.	September 2021 – March 2022	Underway Meeting Director of Finance and Digital services, and Head of ICT monthly.

Local government national studies planned / in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Rhondda Cynon Taf Council
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 AGW's report of July 2020	N/A	N/A	This work is not progressing in 2021-22

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Rhondda Cynon Taf Council
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 authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022	Fieldwork	Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council
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) 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 September/October – 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	National overview report published on 4 November 2021	Assurance Checks completed
National Review	Support for disabled children and their families	Disabled children overview report published on 29 November 2021	Review completed

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
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	Risk-based inspection activity ongoing as per programme	Ongoing
National Review	National review of the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in Wales 2019-2020. Key findings and recommendations of our joint review with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW)	Published	Completed Further publication for 2020-21 is due in Spring 2022
Inspection	Risk-based inspection activity will continue where required Scheduling inspection programme as per intelligence gathered during Assurance Checks and current national themes and preparation for 2022-23	December 2021 to March 2022 Next Inspection programme begins in full March 2022	Ongoing

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

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Financial Sustainability of Local Government	September 2021
NHS summarised accounts infographic	September 2021
Picture of Public Services ¹	September 2021
Town Centre Regeneration	September 2021
Student finances	August 2021
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

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 and 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 and recovery/Welsh Government grants management – other	To be confirmed
Affordable housing	To be confirmed
Broadband infrastructure	To be confirmed
Flood risk management	To be confirmed

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 December 2021	Late January 2022
Direct Payments Event (title To be confirmed)	30 March 2022