



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY 2023

COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE - AUDIT WALES

[EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS: MORE THAN A TICK BOX EXERCISE?](#)

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with the latest Audit Wales (AW) National report and to provide the opportunity for Members to review the recommendations in the context our work and the Council's response. Also, to note the position of the report in the wider context of the Audit Wales 2021/22 work programme, which will be reflected in its Audit Summary published in March 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Consider the report of Audit Wales in respect of, '[Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise?](#)' seen at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Review and agree the response to the 'Recommendations' and Improvement Areas as set out in the Action Plan at **Appendix 2**, providing regular up-dates of progress, determine whether further information and/or further progress updates are required.



- 2.3 Consider whether there are any matters of a governance, internal control or risk management nature that require referral to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2021/22, Audit Wales conducted a review of the way that public bodies undertake Equality Impact Assessments and in doing so meeting the relevant requirements of the General Equality Duty within the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Specific Public Sector Equality Duty.

- 3.2 Audit Wales published the resulting National Report in September 2022

- 3.3 The report concludes

'There are examples of good practice in aspects of the EIA process across the public bodies we looked at. There is also non-statutory guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and on the Equality Impact Assessment In Wales Practice Hub (the Practice Hub) about the detailed processes for conducting an EIA. Many public bodies use this guidance to shape their approaches. However, there are areas for improvement'.

- 3.4 The report also sets out and Key Improvement Areas and Recommendations for Welsh Government and Public Bodies.

- 3.5 Appendix 2 sets out how the Council is undertaking actions that will address the Improvement Areas and respond to the Recommendations.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the work being taken by the Council to progress findings as reported by Audit Wales; therefore, an Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment is not required.

5 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

6 CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT/ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 There is no direct requirement for Consultation/Involvement in this report. However, more widely, 'Involvement' is a key pillar to enable the Council to respond to the Audit Wales findings.



7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

9 LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

9.1 The Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity in all its activities work in respect. We have reviewed and strengthened our [Equality Impact Assessment](#) and associated processes to reflect the requirements of the Socio-Economic Duty. The work outlined in response to the Audit Wales findings reflects the national Well-being goals, in particular a More Equal Wales, A Prosperous Wales and a Wales of Cohesive communities.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 Audit Wales reports play an important role in supporting on-going improvement to the Council's governance and service delivery arrangements, and as part of this process, the Council utilises its Scrutiny Committees and Governance and Audit Committee in line with their Terms of Reference, to oversee the arrangements and the monitoring of progress.

10.2 In line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee has responsibility for reviewing and challenging the progress the Council is making toward implementing agreed actions and forming a view on the adequacy of progress being made.

10.3 Lastly, where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider there are matters of a 'governance', 'internal control' or 'risk management' nature that require further review, these can be referred back to Governance and Audit Committee for consideration.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 January 2023

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

Item: Audit Wales Report [Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise?](#)

Background Papers

None.

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