

Performance work programme update for Audit Committee 24 September 2013

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Improvement Assessment Letter 1 – Improvement planning

The review is complete and Letter issued. This is a review of the Council's improvement plan arrangements to secure continuous improvement. The letter follows the publication of the Council's improvement plan. However, as there was an election this year, the Council has delayed the production of its improvement plan until October 2013. This is similar to the arrangements last year with other Welsh authorities. Feedback will be provided to the Audit Committee.

Improvement Assessment Letter 2 - Testing and Audit of Council's Performance Assessment Publication

This is a review of how well the Council has reported on its performance in the last year. The letter will also provide a commentary of the Council's Improvement Plan and Data Quality Audit. The Letter will be produced by November 2013 with feedback to the Audit Committee.

Annual Improvement Report

The Annual Improvement Report (AIR) summarises all the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office as well as that carried out by relevant regulators, such as Estyn, CSSIW and Welsh Language Commissioner. The AIR is to be produced in January/February 2014.

Data quality review

A review of a selection of performance indicators and systems to ensure accuracy of performance information. The review is complete and to be reported through local feedback and in IA Letter 2 in November 2013.

Improvement study – Safeguarding

This study is being scoped and it is proposed that the focus of the work will be to assess the robustness of councils' internal management arrangements to assure themselves that safeguarding arrangements are working effectively. The study will be conducted across all 22 authorities. The main outputs from the study will be a national report on the findings from the local work and a short summary report for each council consisting of the main findings from the fieldwork. A project brief setting out the work will be distributed to councils by the start of October 2013.

Local Government National Study – Welfare reform

The study will focus on preparing to deal with the impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. This study is being scoped and it is proposed that the focus of the work is to look at how well local government has planned for the introduction of welfare reform by tracing the implications on social housing. Nine authorities across Wales have been identified but does not include Anglesey, although all councils may receive data requests from the study team. A project brief setting out the work will be distributed to councils in September 2013.

Local Government National Study - Delivering with less – the impact on Environmental Health Services and citizens

This service specific study is being scoped and a draft project brief has been produced. The work will assess the impact of cuts in resources on environmental health services to determine how well they are managing with less. The work is planned to take place across all 22 councils in Wales, but will not require detailed fieldwork with the delivery being managed and coordinated centrally. A project brief setting out the work will be distributed to councils in September 2013.

Effectiveness of scrutiny

This is a 2012-13 study. The self-assessments and regional workshops have been completed and final self-assessment reports issued to councils. A national report is being drafted and should be published in autumn 2013. In November, Wales Audit Office will be delivering a national conference in conjunction with WG, WLGA, and the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Cardiff Business School. The conference will be highlighting the emerging themes from the study.

Annual Governance Statement

This is a 2012-13 study. The work is complete and local summaries finalised and distributed to councils. A national report is being drafted and should be published in autumn 2013. Wales Audit Office is working with some LG reference partners to develop an on-line resource to assist councils in carrying out reviews of governance arrangements.

Local Government Study - NEETS (young person who is not in education, employment, or training)

This is a 2012-13 study. The study seeks to answer the question: **Are there lessons for local government to learn from efforts to secure better outcomes for young people who are, or are at risk of becoming NEET?** The fieldwork for the project is well advanced and due for completion by September 2013.

Eight councils were included in the fieldwork, not including Anglesey.

For those 11 councils where no fieldwork has been undertaken, a letter inviting them to let us know of good practice, which will be accompanied by the national research data summary, will be sent out soon.

The findings from the local government element of this study will feed into a national report covering both the findings from the local government and value for money studies and is planned for publication in early 2014.

Local Government Study - Managing the financial challenge

The follow up fieldwork is complete and the report is being drafted. The report should be finalised for publication in October 2013. There will be no specific feedback to individual councils as part of this exercise.

Work specific to Anglesey

Homelessness

A review of Homelessness was conducted prior to the new Council. The findings are reported in IA Letter 1 and through local feedback.

Local review

Review of the effectiveness of relationships between councillors, and between councillors and officers following the 2013 elections. The work is planned for November/December 2013 and will be reported through local feedback and, in the AIR.