

Improvement Assessment Letter 1 – Improvement planning

The review is complete and Letter issued.

Improvement Assessment Letter 2 – Testing and Audit of Council’s Performance Assessment Publication

The review is complete and Letter issued.

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 the Welsh Language Commissioner. The draft AIR is being finalised and will be reported at the next Audit Committee.

Corporate Assessment

The second year of the four-year cycle of corporate assessments commences in 2014. Six corporate assessments are planned for 2014-15, and Anglesey is included. The proposed period of the corporate assessment is Winter 2014-15.

Improvement study – Safeguarding

This study will focus on 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. The study is being conducted between March and April 2014.

Local Government National Study – Welfare reform

The study will focus on preparing to deal with the impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and look at how well local government has planned for the introduction of welfare reform by tracing the implications on social housing. Fieldwork has commenced and PwC have sent out detailed landlord and council surveys to the main housing association providers in Wales and all 22 Welsh councils, a total of 62 separate surveys. Fieldwork is completed and moving to the reporting stage. Anglesey is not included as a fieldwork site.

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

The fieldwork is complete. A report will be published and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health have agreed to launch the report conclusions at their Welsh conference on May 7 and 8 2014.

Effectiveness of scrutiny

This is a 2012-13 study. A national report is due to be published by March 2014.

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 due to be published by March 2014.

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

This is a 2012-13 study. The study is complete and publication of the report is due by March 2014.

Local Government Study - Managing the financial challenge

The report was published on 28 January 2014.

2014-15 Local Government Studies

1. The short-list of study options for 2014-15 has been sent out to councils for consultation. The consultation covers the following six topics:

- Option 1: Year 2 Delivering with less – focussing on either Leisure services; Regulatory/Enforcement/Planning; or Waste.
- Option 2: Joined-up working to address Health and Social Care demand.
- Option 3: Meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
- Option 4: Highway Infrastructure.
- Option 5: Economic Development and Job Creation.
- Option 6: Waste Management – prevention and recycling.

We have received replies from Councils, CSSIW, Estyn, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, the Older Persons Commissioner for Wales, and SOLACE. A draft programme for 2014-15 is being considered and will be finalised in due course.

Work specific to Anglesey

Local review

The focus of the local work has changed and will now review elements of the corporate governance arrangements, in preparation for the comprehensive review in February 2015. The work is planned for April 2014 and will be reported through local feedback and in the Annual Improvement Report (AIR).