



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Audit and Governance Committee Update –**Isle of Anglesey** **County Council**

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Audit Committee Update

About this document

- 1 This document provides the Audit and Governance Committee of Isle of Anglesey County Council (the Council) with an update on current and planned Wales Audit Office work. It covers financial and performance audit work together with information on the Auditor General's programme of national value-for-money examinations.

Financial audit update

- 2 **Exhibit 1** provides members of the Audit Committee with a brief overview of the financial audit work reported to the Council. Progress against the planned key outputs and milestones from financial audit outputs and milestones, as set out in the draft outline, are summarised in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1: Delivering the 2016-17 financial audit work

Planned output	Planned start date	Planned reporting date	Report finalised
Audit Deliverables document	February 2017	March 2017	March 2017
Audit of Financial Statements report	June 2017	July 2017	
Opinion on the Financial Statements	June 2017	July 2017	
Whole of Government Accounts	July 2017	September 2017	
Financial Accounts Memorandum	September 2017	October 2017	
Annual Audit Report	October 2016	November 2017	

Performance audit update

- 3 **Exhibit 2** summarises the performance audit work recently completed or underway within the Council – and national reports relevant to local government. **Exhibit 2:** Performance audit work currently underway or planned.

Exhibit 2: Delivering the 2016-17 financial audit work

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Performance work recently completed		
Isle of Anglesey. Annual Improvement Report 2016	Summary of audit work undertaken at the Council during 2016-17, together with key findings from reports issued by CSSIW, Estyn and the Welsh Language Commissioner.	Published June 2017.
Wales Audit Office national report: Savings Planning in Councils in Wales	Considers whether authorities have robust approaches in place to plan, manage, and deliver the budget savings they are facing, at a pace required to ensure financial resilience.	Published June 2017.

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Performance work recently completed		
Wales Audit Office national report: An Overview of Governance Arrangements - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	<p>Joint review undertaken by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and the Wales Audit Office.</p> <p>The review work was designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clarity on whether the Health Board can demonstrate it is making the necessary improvements; • provide an agreed assessment to assist the Health Board and Welsh Government in ensuring that the interests of citizens and patients are protected; • fulfil our responsibilities as external review bodies to examine progress and outstanding issues, and to report on them clearly and openly; and • support improvement and inform any further required 'turnaround' activities. 	<p>Published June 2017.</p>

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Performance work recently completed		
Wales Audit Office national report: The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme	<p>We have examined whether the Welsh Government's arrangements for its design and delivery provide a sound basis for the programme now and in the future.</p> <p>We have concluded that the Welsh Government is generally managing the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme well but will need to clarify some detailed expectations and make adjustments in response to proposed changes in approach and funding to get better value from future public sector investment.</p>	Published May 2017
Wales Audit Office local report: Savings Planning	<p>In this review we concluded that whilst the Council has an improving financial planning framework, underdeveloped savings plans may not fully support future financial resilience.</p>	Published March 2017
Wales Audit Office local report: Good Governance when Determining Significant Service Changes	<p>The focus of this review is on the effectiveness of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's (the Council) governance arrangements for determining service changes. We concluded that the Council's governance arrangements for decision making on significant service changes are generally effective, but it recognises that they could be further strengthened.</p>	Published May 2017.

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Performance work recently completed		
Wales Audit Office local report: Review of Attendance Management	We concluded that the Council has significantly improved its corporate arrangements to manage sickness attendance by introducing more robust absence policies and procedures.	Published June 2017.
Work currently underway		
Wales Audit Office local report: Review of Welsh Housing Quality Standard	The purpose of this local overview is to determine whether the Council has effective arrangements in place to enable it to continue to meet the WHQS.	Fieldwork during October 2017. Draft local report to Council in December 2017.
Aligning the levers of change review	Work will be through focus groups with staff and Councillors and will be assessing councils against the key characteristics that support change and transformation.	Fieldwork. September 2017. Feedback to CEO and Leader October 2017.
Well-being of future generations. Year one work	We will gather evidence on how the 44 bodies are beginning to respond to the requirements of the WFG Act and identify examples of notable emerging practice. The work will be designed to support improvement and inform future audit work under the Act.	Project brief issued July 2017.

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Work currently underway		
Wales Audit Office local report. Scrutiny - Fit for the Future	This review will examine the impact of the WFG Act on the work of scrutiny committees	Project brief being drafted
Wales Audit Office local report. Service User Perspective Review	Building on work undertaken on the Addressing Dependency and Demand Local Government Study, this project will test the service-user interface at all authorities. The review will evaluate what it feels like (as a member of the public) to deal with council services, involving a selection of services and scenarios.	Project brief being drafted. To be issued late July 2017.
Annual Improvement Letter 2017	Summary of local performance audit work undertaken at the Council during 2017.	Draft letter: March 2018.
2016-17 Study - Improving wellbeing through housing adaptations	This study will look at housing adaptation services provided by both local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The study will also involve health bodies by examining whether adaptations have speeded up discharge from hospitals or have helped to stop admissions.	Fieldwork complete. Publication October 2017.
2016-17 Study - Strategic commissioning of learning disability services by local authorities	The study will assess how local authorities effectively deliver strategic commissioning. The review will focus on learning disability schemes as a tracer in local authorities.	Fieldwork complete. Publication October 2017

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Work currently underway		
2016-17 Study - How local government manages demand - Homelessness services	The study will focus on a specific tracer area of homelessness in local authorities using the recent prevention duties placed on local authorities to judge how demand for services is managed	Fieldwork complete. Publication November 2017
2017-18 Study- Using data effectively	This study will primarily focus on the role of local authorities in how effective they are at managing and using data. It will also consider how effective authorities are at accessing and using data held by partners. It is recognised, however, that councils are at very different stages in terms of how they use data. This audit will therefore assess each local authority on their performance identifying how well authorities are currently performing in collecting data, analysing data and using data to support decision making and the use of resources.	Project brief issued June 2017. Publication August 2018.
National report. Public procurement landscape review	Report being drafted	Publication Summer 2017
National report. Waste management (waste prevention)	Report being drafted	Publication Summer 2017

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Work currently underway		
National report. Supporting People programme	Report being drafted	Publication Summer 2017
National report. Implementation of the NHS Finances (Wales) Act 2014 (integrated medium term planning)	Report being drafted	Publication Summer 2017
National report. NHS Wales informatics services	Report being drafted	Publication Summer 2017
National report. Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation	Report being drafted	Publication October 2017.

Topic	Focus of the work	Status
Work currently underway		
National report. Preparations for the implementation of fiscal devolution in Wales (follow-on report)	Report being drafted	Publication October 2017.
2017-18 Study- How well do public bodies provide services to rural communities	Given the changing operating environment for local government in delivering services to geographically dispersed communities with less resources, this review will focus on assessing how effective public organisations in Wales are in working together to assess needs, identify priorities, deliver and maintain the provision of key operational services to meet the needs of people in rural communities.	Project brief issued June 2017. A survey is being conducted at major shows in 2018 including Sioe Amaethyddol Ynys Môn. Publication August 2018.
2017-18 Study- Intermediate Care fund.	Project brief being drafted	Project brief being drafted.

Source: Wales Audit Office

Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone.: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@audit.wales

Website: www.audit.wales

Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru
24 Heol y Gadeirlan
Caerdydd CF11 9LJ

Ffôn: 029 2032 0500

Ffacs: 029 2032 0600

Ffôn testun: 029 2032 0660

E-bost: post@archwilio.cymru

Gwefan: www.archwilio.cymru