

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Performance work programme update for Audit Committee 23 September 2015

Local Government Studies – Update August 2015

This part of the briefing provides an update on progress on delivering the all Wales Local Government studies programme and other centrally managed projects. Each study relates to local government only unless the commentary below specifically references work on National Parks and/or Fire and Rescue Authorities.

1. 2014-15 Local Government Studies

Independence of older people

The draft report is currently at clearance and is scheduled for publication in September 2015. Briefing sessions with local engagement teams and CSSIW have been held and a similar discussion with the health team is being planned.

Delivering with Less – Leisure

The national report is drafted and is progressing through our Quality Assessment stage. Briefings on the key findings are being scheduled for the next round of engagement team meetings in September 2015.

2. 2015-16 Local Government Studies

Community Safety

Fieldwork has commenced and is set to run from August through until November 2015. The study surveys are due to go live in September 2015 and the study team is working with WAO's Comms dept to publicise the survey for citizens. The North Wales fieldwork sites are Conwy/Denbighshire, Wrexham, North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and the North Wales Safer Communities Board. The national report is planned for winter 2016.

The strategic approach of councils to income generation and charging

This study is being delivered under our annual “delivering with less” programme and the study will involve an audit of councils’ strategic approach to charging; the approval process for setting and reviewing charging within a council; the impact of charging on services and service users; and the legislative basis for charging.

The project brief has been distributed and the study is being delivered under a contract with Grant Thornton.

Council funding of third-sector services

Again, under the theme of delivering with less, this study will look at the level of investment in voluntary sector services to benchmark findings against an LGDU reviews conducted on behalf of the WCVA dating from 2001-02. The review will include the measures used to

judge the effectiveness of funding in a tracer area, which will be agreed with the WCVA; review decision making processes to determine whether the principles of good governance in funding third sector services are being followed.

3. 2016-17 Local Government Studies

We are in the process of developing and finalising a list of potential study topics for consultation on our future programme of work. The draft programme will be discussed with engagement teams in forthcoming round of team meetings. Following this, local authorities will be consulted.

4. Improvement audit assessment work for 2015-16

This part of the briefing provides an update on progress on delivering the audit and assessment work at Anglesey (some studies will also include other North Wales and Welsh councils).

Assessment of performance audit

Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance. Timing – Report due in November 2015.

Financial resilience review

Further work on financial resilience arrangements following up our 2014-15 review, and looking forward to 2016-17 budget setting and savings proposals. There will also be a focus on reserves position, policy and use of reserves. Timing – Set-up and fieldwork in September. Local feedback by the end of October 2015.

Governance review

This work will focus on areas identified as being in need of improvement in the Corporate Assessment report. Timing – July 2015 to March 2016.

Performance management review

A study across all six North Wales councils on benchmarking social services costs against performance. This will include CSSIW involvement and discussions with council staff. Timing – September to December 2015.

Locally determined review(s)

Follow-up of aspects identified as being in need of improvement in the Corporate Assessment report. Timing – July 2015 to March 2016. This will stem from the Corporate Assessment following discussion with the Council.

Annual Improvement Report

Annual summary and assessment by the Auditor General and other regulators. Timing – December 2015 to March 2016.

5. Improvement audit assessment work for 2014-15

Corporate Assessment

The draft corporate assessment report will be issued by the end of September. The final report will be published following feedback from the Council.

6. National Value-for Money studies

A separate table has been produced which identifies the national studies the Wales Audit Office has produced or is planning through the 2015-16 period.

Planned Activity	Output	Anticipated publication timeframe		Status	Lead Officer for Project	Progress / Focus
3.WAO National value-for-money studies						VFM Studies are funded by the National Assembly
GP prescribing	National report	April to June 2015		Clearance	WAO Central	
Welsh Government investment in next generation broadband infrastructure	National report	April to June 2015		Published	WAO Central	Report published 28 May 2015
Regional education consortia	National report	April to June 2015		Published	WAO Central	Report published 4 June 2015
Welsh Government acquisition of Cardiff Airport	National report	April to June 2015		Clearance	WAO Central	
Rail services	National report	April to June 2015		Clearance	WAO Central	
Orthopaedic services	National report	April to June		Clearance	WAO Central	

		2015			
NHS clinical coding	National report	Summer 2015	In Progress	WAO Central	
NHS waiting lists and private practice	National report	Summer 2015	In Progress	WAO Central	
Picture of public services	National report	Autumn 2015	In Progress	WAO Central	
Development of Natural Resources Wales	National report	Autumn 2015	In Progress	WAO Central	
Regeneration Investment Fund for Wales	National report	Published July 2015	Published	WAO Central	
Wales Life Sciences Investment Fund	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	
Flood and erosion risk management	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	Review is likely to focus on coastal flooding
Early Intervention and Public Behaviour Change	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	In the short-term, development of a new picture of public services report will take priority over this work.
Welsh Government interventions in Local Government	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	Plans are being revisited in light of the Welsh Government commissioned review of the Anglesey intervention by the Public Policy Institute for Wales

Welsh Government responses to audit recommendations	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	
Public procurement and the National Procurement Service	National report	To be confirmed	Scoping	WAO Central	