

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Performance work programme update for Audit Committee 8 December 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 report was published on 15 October 2015. It is available at - <http://www.audit.wales/publications/Independence-of-Older-People>

Delivering with Less – Leisure

The report is due for publication in early December 2015.

2. 2015-16 Local Government Studies

Community Safety

Fieldwork is complete. 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. Anglesey is not a fieldwork site.

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. The project brief has been distributed and Anglesey is not a fieldwork site.

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

The certificate was issued in November and the Council's Performance Report complies with Welsh Government guidance and the LG Measure.

Financial resilience review

The review is complete and informal feedback was provided to the Section 151 officer. A local report has been drafted and following feedback from the Council, the report will be published in December/January.

Governance review

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

Performance management review

A study across all six North Wales councils on benchmarking social services costs against performance. The study includes CSSIW involvement and discussions with council staff. Timing – September to December 2015. A meeting between WAO, Council lead officers and CSSIW has been scheduled for the 21 December to discuss potential outcomes from an analysis of the indicators.

Locally determined review(s)

Follow-up of aspects identified as being in need of improvement in the Corporate Assessment report. Timing – December 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 final report was published on 2 December and will be presented to the Council on 9 December 2015.

6. Follow up on national recommendations

The Wales Audit Office is following up on recommendations made in national studies reports published during 2014-2015 by way of a survey to all councils in the autumn of 2015. This will enable the evaluation of progress on recommendations at each council, inform local planning for 2016-2017, and give a national picture of the implementation of WAO recommendations.

7. 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.