

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	18 April 2024
Subject:	National reviews and their related recommendations
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Nature and Reason for Reporting: The Governance and Audit Committee's remit provides a specific requirement for the committee to consider and receive reports from regulators or inspectors, which would be a useful source of assurance (3.4.8.13.1). The committee is also required to consider external audit reports and monitor their recommendations (3.4.8.11.3). The purpose of this report is to assure the Committee that the national recommendations attached to the national reports have been given due consideration by the County Council Services and that the relevant ones are being implemented in a meaningful way.	

Introduction

1. In order to demonstrate good governance, this report details the council's response to recognised national reports and associated recommendations published by regulators.
2. Updates are provided against the work the council has undertaken over the past 15 months in addition to what was presented to this committee on the 8th December 2022.
3. Following a review of the reports and associated recommendations, some reports have been identified as no longer requiring monitoring. The reasons for these changes have been provided and as such they are proposed for removal from future monitoring reports.

Recommendation

4. That the Governance and Audit Committee:
 - a. Considers the report and accepts the responses and updates as an accurate reflection of the County Council's annual update against the related recommendations.
 - b. Agrees that the reports recommended for removal at the end of the document (the green table) no longer need to be listed in future reports.



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ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

National reviews and their related recommendations

March 2024

Status - Official

Prepared by:
Transformation Service

The following Audits have been updated for 2023:

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
At your Discretion - Local Government Discretionary Services	<p>Councils need to take the opportunity to refresh, reevaluate and reset what they do and to learn from the pandemic to build a better future.</p> <p>There are opportunities for councils to involve citizens in shaping and running services themselves.</p> <p>The challenge for local councils will be to apply the lessons learnt from the pandemic and use it to refine, adapt and deliver further improvements in order to create positive change and remain relevant to all of their citizens.</p>	CE Office	<p>Opportunity afforded to citizens to involve themselves in the shaping of Council's strategic direction undertaken during 2022.</p> <p>Place shaping agenda continues with 5 Alliances established to realise local priorities.</p>	<p>Significant engagement and consultation with citizens took place during the development of the Council Plan 2023-2028. The Council received 2,500 responses for all types of engagement and consultation activity. Place Shaping agenda continues with 7 alliances in place and 1 in development. Public Participation Strategy 2023-2028 developed and approved.</p>
Progress in implementing the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (November 2019)	<p>R1 Part 1 of the report highlights that despite public bodies having an increasing understanding of, and demand for, VAWDASV services, significant gaps remain and engagement with survivors and victims in reviewing and developing services is inconsistent. To address this, we recommend that needs assessment and mapping of service provision by public bodies are revisited, and involvement widened and enhanced to include all relevant stakeholders to build a more accurate picture of current service provision and identify gaps.</p> <p>R2 Part 1 of the report describes how victims and survivors of VAWDASV often find it difficult to navigate a fragmented system of service delivery. To support victims and survivors to access and use services we recommend that public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce comprehensive and relevant information in a variety of media on the full range of services available to protect and support victims and survivors; and • create a joint pathway to access services and support for both victims and professionals and advertise access arrangements widely. <p>R3 Part 2 of the report notes that whilst it is important that organisations comply with relevant data protection legislation, they also need to share data with partners to better meet the needs of victims and survivors. We recommend that authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure staff who are likely to come into 	Social Services / Housing	<p>R1.Process was unfortunately delayed on a North Wales Regional Level. Draft revised regional needs assessment currently out for consultation.</p> <p>R2.Public Information videos remain available on our council websites. New videos provided by organisations such as Welsh Govt and Welsh Womens Aid who are at the forefront of Domestic Abuse Programmes are also shared. A range of leaflets are also available and can be obtained from Gorwel's one-stop shop project in Llangefni. Information such as Ask For ANI which</p> <p>The One Front Door Project has been an undoubted success. A recent review of the project undertaken by Safe Lives, complemented the IoACC and its key stakeholder partners such as North Wales Police, Gorwel (designated 3rd Sector Provider for Domestic Abuse) and BCUHB on the partnership approach taken since it's set up in July 2020.</p> <p>R3.The percentage number of housing staff who have completed the mandatory online training is now in the mid-nineties in terms and is one of the highest within the Council. All staff are regularly reminded of their need to undertake the mandatory VAWDASV training and we adhere to our mantra that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In terms of risk management information is shared in a robust and secure manner on 'need to know ' basis. A database is held within the Housing Service in relation to safeguarding training as well as other mandatory modules where staff are reminded of their need and duty to undertake refresher training accordingly</p> <p>R4.The North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Board continues to be the Governance Board for domestic abuse matters and is responsible for key strategic decision making. On a more operational level, the VAWDASV Commissioning Board consisting</p>	<p>The North Wales VAWDASV Needs Assessment has been published in late 2023 and will assist in informing future commissioning of domestic abuse services, both on a local and regional basis. Currently, there are a range of various accommodation based, floating support, IDVA and Target Hardening equipment commissioned for victims/survivors of domestic abuse. Actual delivery of support far exceeds the number of commissioned units, placing considerable pressures on the designated support provider. However, the challenging financial climate has restricted opportunities to extend and further develop current provision.</p> <p>A wide range of public information videos and documents remain available for access. Gorwel the designated lead provider for Domestic Abuse has been extremely proactive during 2023 and has released informative and meaningful press release to inform and raise awareness of the worrying increase in domestic abuse incidence and its devastating consequences for individuals, families and wider society.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Duty which came into force from 31st January 2023, requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. Work remains ongoing to ensure compliance.</p> <p>The One Front Door Project has sadly seen a considerable increase in referrals during the past 18 months. It would also appear that a significant number of the referrals have become more acute and complex in their nature. The increase in referrals for both the One Front Door Project and the Early Intervention Hub has led to the merging of both</p>

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	<p>contact with victims and survivors have appropriate VAWDASV training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide refresher training to service managers to ensure they know when and what data they can and cannot share; and • review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities. <p>R4 Part 2 of the report highlights that while some good progress has been made with regional working, there are not always appropriate levers in place to support service transformation in line with VAWDASV legislation. To ensure the benefits of regionalisation are realised, we recommend that delivery agencies (local authorities, health bodies, the police, fire and rescue authorities and the third sector) review their approach to regional working to better integrate services and maximise the positive impact they can make on victims and survivors.</p> <p>R5 Part 3 of the report highlights that the complex and short-term funding mechanisms, lack of data and insufficient consultation with stakeholders, are not supporting sustainable commissioning of VAWDASV services. To address this, we recommend that local authorities review their commissioning arrangements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove duplication and overlap between different approaches within the authority and with partners; • rationalise administration arrangements to improve efficiency and value for money; • streamline and standardise commissioning arrangements to reduce the burden of administration on all parties; and • set appropriate performance measures, targets and benchmarks to judge the impact and outcome of commissioned services. 		<p>of multi agency representation is responsible for the overview and driving of specific matters such as needs assessments, training requirements and grant applications for additional capital and revenue bids from both the devolved Welsh and the Central Governments.</p> <p>R5. Current situation unclear and unable to report positive progress in this area.</p> <p>Safeguarding Response:</p> <p>R1 The draft North Wales VAWDASV Needs Assessment will be presented to the V and E Board on the 18th of October for comments and recommendations. As for survivor involvement, the regional VAWDASV team have a twice-yearly forum for survivors called the SAS group (Survivors Advising Services) and another for survivors of sexual violence. This is an important contribution to getting the survivors</p> <p>R2 Some coordination from the regional VAWDASV team.</p> <p>The Community Safety page on the Council's website, which is available to the public, offers high quality advice about the service provided by Gorwel to people experiencing domestic violence; including advice on useful Apps, how to keep safe (including children), contact details for local support services. For those in immediate danger, contact details for police services are provided.</p> <p>The page also contains details of the Live Without Fear Helpline. There is also a link with Gorwel support services for older people who are victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Internally, the Local Authority's intranet site is being developed to include a specific safeguarding section. This will provide a one stop resource for all employees. This will include information about VAWDASV. Once this is completed the intention is to develop the outward facing public information sites.</p> <p>The Children and Families Service also leads the development of the 'One Front Door' service. This is a multi-agency approach to identifying and rating RAG referrals received and a forum to evaluate and develop services around domestic abuse depending on risk and needs. We have secured funding to assist us with the development. This will help with early intervention as well as referral to appropriate services.</p> <p>R3 The Local Authority provides safeguarding and data protection training in line with the identified workforce needs. The Local Authority has continued to implement the requirements of the National Training Framework: Group 1 and 6. Compliance as at</p>	<p>Panels. Commitment from the various agencies remains excellent, with panel meetings are now held twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.</p> <p>The percentage of housing and social services staff who have completed the mandatory training remains high and all newly appointed staff are informed of the requirement to complete the on-line VAWDASV and Safeguarding training at the earliest possible opportunity. A record of who has completed the training along with any required refresher is kept within Housing and Social Services and Senior and Middle Managers are informed of staff who are required to undertake the training within their respective service units / teams.</p> <p>Likewise, a significant number of housing and social staff have also attended the Ask and Act Training course.</p> <p>The governance arrangements remain unchanged.</p>

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			<p>the end of September 2022 across the organisation with the Group 1 training was 81%.</p> <p>The Authority is rolling out Ask and Act Group 2 training, albeit initially virtually. We have trainers accredited to deliver Group 2 training and Group 3 champions. By the end of August 2022 389 individuals had completed the Group 2 training: with delivery also provided to schools with 105 attending.</p> <p>WSP embedding and the sharing of information follows the principles</p> <p>During 2020, the North Wales VAWDASV Strategic Board was amalgamated with the Modern slavery board and is now the North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation board, covering VAWDASV Modern slavery and other areas of exploitation including County Lines and criminal exploitation.</p> <p>The Board aims to work together in partnership to ensure the most efficient and effective response to preventing serious harm caused by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in the North Wales region and to implement and support the requirements of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Act (Wales) 2015.</p> <p>Membership of the Board as it stands in October 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Police • Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board • Local Authorities – Wrexham, Flintshire, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd & Isle of Anglesey • National Probation Service/CRC • North Wales Fire and Rescue Service • Area Planning Board • North Wales Youth Justice service • HMP Berwyn • Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner • 3 representatives from specialist services to represent all 3rd sector groups <p>The current Chair of the Vulnerability and Exploitation Board is Stephen Hughes (OPCC) and the Vice Chair position is vacant, due to staffing changes. This will be addressed at the next V and E Board meeting on 3rd February. These positions are currently held for two years.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Group sits under the V and E Board and leads on all commissioning decisions, including developing the Needs Assessment, looking at gaps in provision and ensuring a lack of duplication in provision. The JC Group also acts as a quality assurance body, monitoring commissioned projects and ensuring targets are met.</p>	

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			<p>The Joint Commissioning Group meet quarterly to look at performance of all commissioned services, as well as any funding decisions that have been made by the Decision-Making subgroup. This is an opportunity to question services, look at outcomes and suggest how to address any challenges. The commissioning of all services aims to comply with the VAWDASV Statutory Commissioning Guidance, and it is a standing agenda item on all Joint Commissioning Group meetings.</p> <p>The monitoring of commissioned services is shared between the commissioning team at the OPCC and the Regional VAWDASV team and all information is shared with the JC Group for further scrutiny. A thorough regional VAWDASV Needs Assessment is conducted every 3 years and the 2022 version is currently with the V and E board for ratification.</p>	
<p>Review of Public Services Boards</p>	<p>R1 In Part 1 of the report we set out that understanding the impact of choices and decisions requires public bodies to fully involve citizens and stakeholders and undertake comprehensive Impact Assessments. However, we found that current practice is insufficient to provide assurance that the needs of people with protected characteristics are fully considered when reviewing choices and the voice of citizens is not sufficiently influencing decisions. We recommend that PSBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct formal assessments to identify the potential impact on people with protected characteristics and the Welsh language and review agreed actions to ensure any adverse impacts are addressed; • improve transparency and accountability by making PSB meetings, agendas, papers and minutes accessible and available to the public; • strengthen involvement by working to the guidance in the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales; and • feedback the outcome of involvement activity identifying where changes are made as a result of the input of citizens and stakeholders. <p>R2 In Part 2 of the report we review arrangements for PSB scrutiny and conclude that there are shortcomings and weaknesses in current performance and practice. To improve scrutiny, we recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBs and public bodies use the findings of the Auditor General for Wales' Discussion Paper: Six themes to help make scrutiny 'Fit for the Future' to review their current performance and identify where they need to strengthen oversight arrangements and activity; and 	PSB	<p>R1. • A working group was established regionally to work with Co-production Wales on a 5-year engagement improvement plan. This will work collaboratively with the Regional Social Care partnership to consider and explore all options on the spectrum of consultation through to Co-production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building relationships and trust with communities, - the most appropriate methods and times to engage according to the circumstance, - language and media to engage and listen - register of key community groups / building of stakeholder network - ensuring diversity and inclusivity - regional forward work planning and sharing of anonymised engagement feedback, - best ways to feedback to participants on progress - engagement training and possible online engagement platform (to be confirmed) <p>• A second regional working group was established, and a workshop held with over 50 people in attendance. The workshop was organised by the North Wales Community Cohesion teams and supported by Co-Production Network for Wales and aimed at aimed at the organisations and professionals who work with seldom heard and minority groups. The focus of the workshop was about how to create equal and inclusive dialogue with diverse communities in North Wales. Key themes were analysed and shared regionally. We are using these findings to build an ongoing conversation with these communities and to feed into the new Wellbeing plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSB's website is regularly updated with details of meetings, membership, minutes and plans. https://www.llesiantgwyneddaron.org/en/Amdanom/Amdanom-Ni/ • The PSB's annual report for 21/22 will be published in December 2022 following scrutiny by both Councils and PSB members. This report sets out the impact of the PSB on the wellbeing of our residents. 	<p>R1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSB support team acknowledges the need for Language and Equality Impact Assessments and they are utilised when projects are submitted to the attention of the PSB that will recommend changing policy or service. In 2023, the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB was the first to trial the new EqIA template as produced by the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network (NWPSSEN) for the new Wellbeing Plan 2023-28. The NWPSSEN EqIA is a multi-purpose tool ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty Equality Impact Assessment legislation and to demonstrate that we have shown due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions under the Socio-economic Duty. It also ensures that we take appropriate steps to comply with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44: Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011) to consider the impact of strategic and policy decisions on the language. • The NWPSSEN EqIA process is an ongoing one that doesn't end when the policy/practice agreed and implemented. There is a specific legal duty to monitor the impact of policies/practices on equality on an ongoing basis to identify if the outcomes have changed since the new policy or practice was introduced. Accordingly, the PSB reviews the actions that arose from the EqIA and has ade arrangements to monitor the outcomes and ensure data is collected and reviewed. • The work of the Regional Social Care partnership which considers and explores all options on the spectrum of consultation through to Co-production was used extensively in the engagement and consultation on the Wellbeing Plan during 2023. In addition, the findings from the extensive work undertaken by the North Wales Community Cohesion teams and supported by Co-Production Network for Wales aimed at the organisations and professionals who work with seldom heard and minority groups were used to build an ongoing conversation with these communities and to feed into the new Wellbeing plan. • The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board has a website that operates under the name: https://www.llesiantgwyneddaron.org Details and minutes of Board meetings are included on the website.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBs ensure scrutiny committees have adequate engagement with a wider range of relevant stakeholders who can help hold PSBs to account. <p>R3 In Part 3 of the report we summarise the difficulty of developing, implementing and resourcing PSBs and the challenges of managing multiple partnerships that can often have overlap and duplication. To help build capacity, consistency and resourcing of activity we recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBs take the opportunity to discharge other plan and strategy obligations through the Local Wellbeing Plan; • the Welsh Government enables PSBs to develop flexible models of working including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – merging, reducing and integrating their work with other forums such as Regional Partnership Boards; and – giving PSBs flexibility to receive, manage and spend grant monies subject to PSBs ensuring they have adequate safeguards and appropriate systems in place for management of funding; effective budget and grant programme controls; and public reporting, scrutiny and oversight systems to manage expenditure. <p>R4 To help build capacity, consistency and resourcing of activity we recommend that the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association in their review of strategic Partnerships take account of, and explore, the findings of this review.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Welsh language is a golden thread throughout the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB. Being able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh and access community services and activities in Welsh is important to our communities and we are committed to working together to increase the use of the Welsh language within public bodies in Gwynedd and Anglesey. We are also committed to promoting Welsh as the language of choice for communication among public organisations across both counties. <p>R2 All elected members are offered specific training on the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which includes the duties of the PSB and the roles and responsibilities of Scrutiny committees.</p> <p>During 21/22, the Scrutiny timelines in relation to PSB work was reviewed and amended to align with key PSB deliverables earlier in the process. This will ensure that scrutiny challenge and recommendations is more timely and has more impact.</p> <p>R3 • The North West Wales Health and Care Sub Group (otherwise known as the Area Integrated Service Board/AISB) serves the area well to coordinate health and social care services to meet local needs. Under the governance of the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB it follows the Welsh Government's "Healthier Wales" mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several examples where the Board has prioritized work where financial resources are needed in order to realize them. We have managed to come to an arrangement to co-finance a limited number of issues, but it is not an ideal situation with the increasing pressure on budgets and it also means a delay before the work can be progressed. • During 2022, the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB has engaged proactively to access opportunities funded by the Regional PSB fund to further enhance knowledge, research and public engagement in relation to Wellbeing priorities. Some examples include giving local citizens opportunities to take part in citizens juries/panels and taking the work of PSB's into secondary schools and sixth forms so that decisions and priorities can be actively challenged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the PSB's Well-being Assessments and the Wellbeing Plan was planned in accordance with the National Principles for engaging with the public and opportunities were identified to make more use of different communication channels to inform our citizens of work done by the PSB and the progress it makes. We will be holding sessions along the lines of 'You said...we did...' to show how the things that our citizens have told us have contributed to our decisions (initially with 3rd sector groups, further education college students and older people forums). <p>R2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from the work completed in 21/22, where the Scrutiny timelines in relation to PSB work was reviewed and amended to align with key PSB deliverables earlier in the process. This has already ensured that scrutiny challenge and recommendations are more timely and have more impact. <p>R3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2023, the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB was successful in bidding for funding from the Regional PSB Grant to further enhance knowledge, research and public engagement in relation to Wellbeing priorities. We have recently secured funding under the Regional Grant to undertake a project on behalf of the three North Wales PSBs in collaboration with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office. This project will focus on the issues facing PSB members when trying to recruit Welsh speakers. <p>OUTCOME: COMPLETED</p>
The 'front door' to adult social care	<p>Improving access to the front door</p> <p>R1 Part 1 of the report sets out how authorities promote Access to the 'front door' and provide information, advice and assistance to help people to improve their wellbeing and prevent their needs from deteriorating. To improve awareness of the front door we recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- review their current approaches, consider their audience, and ensure that good-quality information is made available in a timely manner to avoid 	Adult Services	<p>SPOA and the IAA for children and families Teulu Mon has been amalgamated into one single point of access. The service is called Teulu Mon. Following a period of consultation, we have successfully transferred staff to the new entity and we currently have eight engagement officers two coordinators and a manager. Moving forward we need to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> improve and streamline processes in particular to adult services, increase the presence of third sector and other services from within the council in Teulu Mon, (Currently we have Action for children and PARABL attending weekly) we need to evaluate the level of demand and staffing in the short term, do we have enough capacity to cope with demand caused by the cost-of-living crisis. 	<p>The Teulu Mon Service is now operational and provides a single point of access across adult and children services. This provides a more streamlined and resilient service and ensure we have a clear pathway into the service.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken to review processes and to standardise referral processes.</p> <p>As the service embeds we intend to look at the potential to develop and strengthen arrangement to filter and signpost referrals at source.</p>

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	<p>needs deteriorating and people presenting for assistance in 'crisis';</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- work in partnership with public and third-sector partners to help ensure people accessing via partner referrals, or other avenues, are given the best information to help them; -- ensure that advocacy services are commissioned and proactively offered to those who need them at first point of contact; and -- to take local ownership and lead on the co-ordination and editing of local information published on Dewis Cymru locally. 			
<p>The effectiveness of local planning authorities in Wales</p>	<p>R1 Part 1 of the report sets out the complexities of the planning system showing how challenging it is for local planning authorities to effectively engage with and involve stakeholders in choices and decisions. To improve involvement with stakeholders and ownership of decisions we recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local planning authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – test current engagement and involvement practices and consider the full range of other options available to ensure involvement activities are fit for purpose; – use 'Place Plans' as a vehicle to engage and involve communities and citizens in planning choices and decision making; and – improve transparency and accountability by holding planning meetings at appropriate times, rotating meetings to take place in areas which are subject to proposed development, webcasting meetings and providing opportunities for stakeholders to address committee meetings. <p>R2 Part 2 of the report highlights that local planning authorities have been subject to significant reductions in funding and struggle to deliver their statutory responsibilities. To improve resilience, we recommend that local planning authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review their building control fee regimes to ensure the levels set, better reflect the actual cost of providing these services and make the service self-funding; and • improve capacity by working regionally to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – integrate services to address specialism 	<p>RED</p>	<p>Considerable alignment between recommendation and scope/ priorities of IACC Planning Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Significant impact of Covid 19 pandemic on Planning Function performance, capacity and resilience.</p> <p>Planning Function has experienced significant savings/ efficiencies over the last 10 years – the impact of which are now being clearly seen</p> <p>Ongoing challenges in relation to maintaining capacity and recruiting new/ experienced officers.</p> <p>Function already collaborating regionally in relation to planning policy expertise – impacts of further regional collaboration (i.e., preparation of Strategic Development Plans) anticipated to create additional challenges in relation to capacity, capability and resourcing.</p>	<p>R2. Work on reviewing building control fees is currently ongoing.</p> <p>The Authority collaborates regionally through the North Wales Regional Minerals and Waste Service.</p> <p>No other formal working arrangements are currently in place although further regional collaboration in the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan is anticipated.</p> <p>The impacts on capacity and resourcing is still to be determined.</p> <p>It is considered that the current scheme of delegation is adequate and effective in this respect.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the planning committee can be monitored and the delegation scheme reviewed if areas of local concern are identified.</p> <p>It is considered that the current templates are adequate, and are revised regularly.</p> <p>The Council's Constitution sets out the standards by which the members and officers must abide.</p> <p>Sections 3 and 5 of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that planning decisions are made in accordance with the Act's sustainable development principles through their contribution towards one or more of the Welsh Ministers' well-being objectives.</p> <p>The existing Joint Local Development Plan seeks to promote and improve the wellbeing of our communities and provides a local planning policy framework for achieving this.</p> <p>The new Local Development Plan will also address this issue.</p>

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	<p>gaps; – develop joint supplementary planning guidance; and – develop future local development plans regionally and in partnership with other local planning authorities.</p> <p>R4 Part 3 of the report summarises the effectiveness and impact of local planning authorities decision making and how well they are performing against national measures. We recommend that local planning authorities improve the effectiveness of planning committees by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing their scheme of delegation to ensure planning committees are focussed on the most important strategic issues relevant to their authority; • revising reporting templates to ensure they are clear and unambiguous to help guide decision making and reduce the level of officer recommendations overturned; and • enforcing the local planning authorities’ standards of conduct for meetings. <p>R5 Part 4 of the report identifies the central role of planning to delivering the ambitions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We recommend that local planning authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set a clear ambitious vision that shows how planning contributes to improving wellbeing; • provide planning committee members with regular and appropriate wellbeing training and support to help deliver their wider responsibilities; • set appropriate measures for their administration of the planning system and the impact of their planning decisions on wellbeing; and • annually publish these performance measures to judge planning authorities impact on wellbeing. 			<p>A training programme on Wellbeing for members of the planning committee will be put into place.</p> <p>Sections 3 and 5 of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that planning decisions are made in accordance with the Act’s sustainable development principles through their contribution towards one or more of the Welsh Ministers’ well-being objectives</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report for the current Joint Local Development Plan provides a monitoring and reporting framework.</p> <p>Similar monitoring and reporting arrangements will be put in place for the new Local Development Plan.</p>
<p>The new Curriculum for Wales</p>	<p>To better understand and to support scrutiny of the cost of curriculum reform R1 - It has not been easy for the Welsh Government or us to identify expenditure on curriculum reform to date. In part this is because of difficulties in calculating expenditure specific to curriculum reform as opposed to other elements of the education reform</p>	<p>Learning</p>	<p>Measuring the impact of professional learning is an area of work where the Local Authority and regional consortia are focusing on. We as an authority are mindful of trying to minimise the workload to schools and would therefore agree that there is a need to consider the impact of any additional data collection on schools. We would also welcome any further information on how curriculum reform costs can be identified as we feel that it’s currently difficult to separate curriculum reform costs from the school running costs.</p>	<p>Measuring the impact of professional learning is an area of work where the Local Authority and regional consortia are focusing on. We as an authority are mindful of trying to minimise the workload to schools and would therefore agree that there is a need to consider the impact of any additional data collection on schools, especially where the impact cannot be isolated to one particular intervention or one that will not necessarily reveal its impact for several years. We would also welcome any further information on how curriculum reform costs can be identified as we feel that it’s</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>programme, or the Renew and Reform programme, some of which may benefit curriculum reform. However, understanding the cost of curriculum reform is vital to support scrutiny and inform any consideration of value for money. We recommend that the Welsh Government monitors and reports annually on the costs of its curriculum reform programme including costs to partners and schools. In developing and reporting on its best estimate, the Welsh Government will need to consider the impact of any additional data collection on schools in particular. To evaluate the effectiveness of the professional learning programme and support to schools</p> <p>R2 - The Welsh Government has funded professional learning aligned to the new curriculum alongside its wider investment in teachers' professional learning. It has also funded the regional education consortia and partnerships to provide bespoke support for schools. It recently announced a national entitlement to professional learning for all teachers and teaching assistants. We recommend that the Welsh Government ensures that the effectiveness and value for money of its investment in professional learning for teachers and other school staff is evaluated.</p> <p>To design and implement new qualifications that support the Welsh Government's ambitions for the new curriculum</p> <p>R3 - The Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales know that qualifications need to change to align with the new curriculum. Qualifications Wales is working with schools, further and higher education and others to co-design the new GCSEs and, subsequently, other qualifications. The detail of the qualifications and forms of assessment is not yet decided. We recommend that the Welsh Government works with Qualifications Wales to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) monitor teachers' and learners' participation in developing the new qualifications. b) plan an effective national professional learning programme that will support teachers to deliver the new qualifications; and 		<p>Measuring the impact of professional learning is an area of work where the Local Authority and regional consortia are focusing on. We would also welcome any further information on how curriculum reform costs can be identified and evaluated as we feel that it's currently difficult to separate curriculum reform costs from the school running costs.</p> <p>The Learning Service has quarterly meetings with the regional consortia where engagement in professional learning is recorded. The business plan will need to be reviewed to allow the Local Authority to capture the required information and any quarterly meetings will monitor the progress. The development of the new qualification is in its infancy.</p> <p>Engagement is considered in the new Estyn framework for school inspections and the Local Authority will revise the business plan to ensure that we capture this information and will need to be included as a topic for councillors to discuss when they have discussion with the pupils.</p> <p>New School Improvement framework and non-statutory guidance has been issued by Welsh Government. Task and finish group will be formed regionally to support schools and LA's as guidance becomes statutory for 2024-25.</p> <p>New School Improvement framework and non-statutory guidance has been issued by WG. Task and finish group to be formed regionally to support schools and LA's as guidance become statutory for 2024-25.</p>	<p>currently difficult to separate curriculum reform costs from the school running costs. However, it should be noted that Welsh Government will be simplifying and streamlining funding arrangements from 2024-25, part of its reasons for doing so involves the need to reduce bureaucratic burden.</p> <p>Measuring the impact of professional learning is an area of work where the Local Authority and regional consortia are focusing on. We would also welcome any further information on how curriculum reform costs can be identified and evaluated as we feel that it's currently difficult to separate curriculum reform costs from the school running costs.</p> <p>The Learning Service has quarterly meetings with the regional consortia where engagement in professional learning is recorded. The Business Plan will need to be reviewed to allow the Local Authority to capture the required information and any quarterly meetings will monitor the progress. The development of the new qualification is in its infancy???</p> <p>Learner? Engagement is considered in the new Estyn framework for school inspections, and the Local Authority will revise the Business Plan to ensure that we capture this information. A Scrutiny Session for Elected Members has been arranged where they will discuss Learner Engagement/Pupil Voice and a Children and Young People's Forum has been arranged for the 20th of January 2024.</p> <p>New School Improvement framework and non-statutory guidance has been issued by Welsh Government. Task and finish group has worked across the region in preparation of the intended statutory roll-out as of September 2024. Schools and relevant LA Officers are aware of the new accountability framework, though another consultation and further guidance is expected in Spring 2024. A Governor session has also been arranged jointly between LA Officers and GwE in March 2024, and several briefings issued through the Governor Bulletin. Schools are also being prepared through their School Improvement Adviser.</p> <p>The Local Authority has also met with Welsh Government on the subject of the School Improvement Guidance, as well as the formation of a new information eco-system for schools to use. It is anticipated that further information will be disclosed later this year. In the meantime, Elected Member and School Governors have been briefed of the new accountability requirements. Further information/support sessions are planned to aid with this.</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>c) assess the resources needed for professional learning for the new qualifications and any changes to the assessment process, including any greater role for teacher assessment and/or digital technology.</p> <p>To evaluate the effectiveness of schools' engagement with parents, carers and learners R4 - A positive impact of the pandemic has been to strengthen engagement between schools and families in many cases. Schools will be required to engage with parents and carers about the curricula. Parents, carers and learners should be able to participate in schools' evaluation and improvement. This is underway in some schools. We recommend that the Welsh Government supports schools to engage effectively with parents, carers and learners and evaluates how well schools are doing this to support improvement.</p> <p>To establish the information needed for a rounded understanding of schools' activities and outcomes R5 - Work to support a national approach to self-evaluation is due to be completed by the end of the 2021/22 academic year. There is less clarity about the process for democratic accountability and transparency, including what information will be available to governors, local or diocesan authorities, parents, carers and the public. We recommend that the Welsh Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establishes what information those charged with holding schools to account, require as part of a new approach to accountability; and b) sets out details on how it will ensure transparency for parents, learners and the public. <p>To ensure the new curriculum remains fit for purpose R6 - The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 introduces a requirement for Ministers to keep the new curriculum under review. It does not set out the mechanism for cyclical review. We recommend that, once the milestone of first teaching of the new curriculum is achieved, the Welsh</p>			

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>Government sets out how it intends to keep the curriculum under review to ensure that it can become embedded and yet remain fit for purpose.</p>			
<p>Direct Payments for Adult Social Care</p>	<p>In Part 1 we set out the how local authorities promote and raise awareness of Direct Payments (paragraphs 1.2 to 1.7). To ensure people know about Direct Payments, how to access these services and are encouraged to take them up, we recommend that local authorities:</p> <p>R1 - Review public information in discussion with service users and carers to ensure it is clear, concise and fully explains what they need to know about Direct Payments. R2 - Undertake additional promotional work to encourage take up of Direct Payments. R3 - Ensure advocacy services are considered at the first point of contact to provide independent advice on Direct Payments to service users and carers.</p> <p>In Part 1 we set out the importance of the 'What Matters' conversation and the importance of social workers in helping people make informed choices on Direct Payments (paragraphs 1.8 to 1.13). To ensure Direct Payments are consistently offered we recommend that local authorities:</p> <p>R4 - Ensure information about Direct Payments is available at the front door to social care and are included in the initial discussion on the available care options for service users and carers. R5 - Provide training to social workers on Direct Payments to ensure they fully understand their potential and feel confident promoting it to service users and carers.</p> <p>In Part 2 we highlight the central role of Personal Assistants in helping service users and carers to get the best positive outcomes from their use of Direct Payments (paragraphs 2.2 to 2.7). To ensure there is sufficient Personal Assistant capacity, we recommend that local authorities through the All-Wales local</p>	<p>Adult Services</p>	<p>R1. Review underway of policy, guidance material, and website. R2. Awareness raising with social workers through training sessions and staff conference. Seek feedback from those on Direct Payments and those refused/stopped. R3. Advocacy options available to all Direct Payment Service users and Carers, promoting a Service Users led approach. Service Users and carers have the opportunity to choose a suitable provider which reflects their needs R4. Once a care need is determined, a conversation about options takes place. Teulu Mon and SPOA merger to ensure consistent advice provided on care options. Work programme developed. R5. Direct Payments team to coordinate training to social care services. As above – work programme developed. R6. NWAAA maintains Personal Assistants database and new Direct Payments Review and Development Officer role created in May 2022 to assist filling Personal Assistant vacancies. R7. Policy currently under review. R8. N/A R9. Officers attend regional and all wales group and feed into developments and play a part in discussions. R10. Await steer from Welsh Government regarding performance information to publish so consistent with other Local Authorities. Local Performance scorecard created. Will adapt once WG advice received, if required. Local statistical performance measures will be considered in the meantime, e.g., care plan reviews completed annually.</p>	<p>Update Jan 2024: R1 – Policy and guidance material has been updated. Website is in development and under review. R2 – Direct Payments officer and Direct Payments Reviewing and Developing Officer are attending CRT meetings to promote DP R4 - Direct Payments Reviewing and Developing Officer attending Teulu Mon 2 x mornings a week. Answering any calls or enquires relating to Direct Payments. R5 - Direct Payments officer and Direct Payments Reviewing and Developing Officer are attending CRT meetings. R6 - Direct Payments Reviewing and Developing Officer working with NWAAA in recruiting new PA's. Direct Payments Reviewing and Developing Officer also attends Mencap hub in Llangefnï to talk to DP clients and PA's. Developed a training program for new PA's and existing PA's with our internal Human Resources – Learning Pool. R7 – policy updated, more streamline and easier to read and follow than previous version. R9 - Officers attend regional and All Wales Direct Payments Forum group every 3 months and feed into developments and play a part in discussions. R10 – Provide statistics to management every months on the new/closed clients and potential clients over the period.</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>authority Direct Payments Forum and with Social Care Wales: R6 - Work together to develop a joint Recruitment and Retention Plan for Personal Assistants.</p> <p>In Part 2 we highlight that while local authorities recognise the value of Direct Payments in supporting independence and improving wellbeing, the differences in approach, standards and the amount paid out means that people with similar needs receive different levels of service (paragraphs 2.9 to 2.18 and 2.23 to 2.27). To ensure services are provided equitably and fairly we recommend that local authorities and the Welsh Government: R7 - Clarify policy expectations in plain accessible language and set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what Direct Payments can pay for. • how application and assessment processes, timescales and review processes work. • how monitoring individual payments and the paperwork required to verify payments will work. • how unused monies are to be treated and whether they can be banked; and • how to administer and manage pooled budgets. <p>Public information should be reviewed regularly (at least every two years) to ensure they are working effectively and remain relevant.</p> <p>In Part 2 we highlight difficulties in the interface between NHS continuing healthcare and Direct Payments and note that current practices do not support service users and carers to exercise voice, choice and control (paragraphs 2.28 to 2.31). We recommend that the Welsh Government: R8 - Ensure that people who receive both NHS continuing healthcare and Direct Payments have greater voice, choice and control in decision making.</p> <p>In Part 3 we note that having the right performance indicators and regularly reporting performance against these are important for local authorities to manage operational performance, identify areas of improvement and evaluate the positive impact of services</p>			

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>(paragraphs 3.8 to 3.10). To effectively manage performance and be able to judge the impact and value for money of Direct Payments, we recommend that local authorities and the Welsh Government:</p> <p>R9 - Work together to establish a system to fully evaluate Direct Payments that captures all elements of the process – information, promotion, assessing, managing and evaluating impact on wellbeing and independence.</p> <p>R10 - Annually publish performance information for all elements of Direct Payments to enable a whole system view of delivery and impact to support improvement.</p>			
<p>Isle of Anglesey County Council – Springing Forward</p>	<p>Vision, strategies, delivery plans and the sustainable development principle</p> <p>R1 - The Council needs to demonstrate that the sustainable development principle at the heart of its considerations, embedding on the lessons learnt from the pandemic, as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops the Council's vision for the shape and size of its land and building assets and workforce in the short, medium, and long term. • develops an asset strategy that demonstrates consideration of the sustainable development principle and is fully integrated with key priorities such as the Modernisation and Net Zero Carbon programmes; • updates the workforce strategy to demonstrate application of the sustainable development principle and is fully integrated with key priorities such as the Modernisation and Net Zero Carbon programmes; and • develops costed delivery plans <p>Data and benchmarking</p> <p>R2 - Develop the use of data and benchmarking to inform planning, budget setting, and monitor and assess the longer-term success of its asset and workforce initiatives.</p>	<p>HWP / Transformation</p>	<p>Assets: The Service is in the process of developing a new corporate asset management plan, to deliver, maintain and manage buildings and places we can be proud of. A 10-year plan setting out our goals to manage our assets in a sustainable way, contributing to achieving the Councils net zero goal whilst also ensuring the needs of our communities are met to enable people to be healthy, thrive and prosper.</p> <p>We will aim to maximise income opportunities and bring in additional income to invest, protecting and maintain our assets for future generations.</p> <p>Also developing an updated Small Holding Management Plan, setting out our objectives to provide a fit for purpose sustainable small holding estate, whilst contributing to achieve the Council's net zero plan.</p> <p>We will review and measure our performance regularly, taking action to address shortfalls and challenges. Establish a strategic property group to adopt a data and service led, consistent process of prioritisation.</p> <p>Workforce: The service in the process of reviewing its Workforce strategy to incorporate the sustainable development principle and learnings from the pandemic. The 2022-2025 Workforce planning Strategy is due to be launched setting a vision for the future of the workforce. We will continue to incorporate key priorities where appropriate & are working with the Net Zero Manager to draw up relevant training modules.</p> <p>We undertake a regular benchmarking exercise and report to relevant bodies to compare with other councils. We will continue to undertake this and are currently reviewing benchmarking strategies.</p>	<p>The development of our corporate asset management plan was delayed due to the RAAC emergency and relevant officers been diverted to deal with the situation.</p> <p>However this has now been prioritised. A final version of the new strategic plan was approved by Executive in March 2024.</p> <p>The new Strategic plan's strategic objectives will address the recommendations, these will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitability - rationalised portfolio – the right property in the right location 2. Sustainability – reducing our carbon footprint 3. Collaboration – manage our properties as a corporate resource to achieve the Council vision 4. Data driven - planning based on data and transparent <p>The Workforce Strategy is now a live document and progress on how the Authority is trying to embed the principle of workforce planning is outlined below.</p> <p>It is anticipated that more live benchmarking data will be available upon procurement of the recruitment module. Early indications from the procurement process indicate that this is possible although experience tells us that delivery is often far more complicated when married up with the Authority's current infrastructure. Work continues on an all Wales basis and Data Benchmarking are shared.</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
Regenerating Town Centres in Wales	<p>R1 - Non-domestic rates have not been reviewed in recent years, and the levels charged do not reflect the current rents being achieved in many town centres. We recommend that the Welsh Government review Nondomestic Rates to ensure the system better reflects towncentre conditions when the payments holiday ends in March 2022.</p> <p>R2 - Many town-centre businesses are impacted adversely by charging for car parking, access to public transport and poor transport infrastructure. We recommend that the Welsh Government work with local authorities to review transport challenges facing town centres and agree how best to address these.</p> <p>R3 - The Welsh Government has directly provided and levered in just under £900 million through 13 funding schemes to help regenerate town centres. However, some aspects of the Welsh Government's management of the funding are considered problematic. To ensure local authorities are able to maximise the impact of funding and tackle the more difficult and longstanding problems that would help transform their town centres, we recommend that the Welsh Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidate funding to reduce bureaucracy by streamlining processes and grant conditions and keeping requests for information and supporting materials to a minimum. • move away from annual bidding cycles to multi-year allocations; and • rebalance investment from capital to revenue to help local authorities address staff capacity and skills shortages. <p>R4 The Welsh Government has provided all 22 local authorities with training on how best to use existing enforcement, financial assistance and debt recovery powers, but they are not being consistently nor effectively utilised to support regeneration. We recommend that local authorities take appropriate action, using these existing powers and resources available to achieve the best possible outcome for town centres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using alternative methods of enforcement before using Compulsory Purchase Orders as a last resort. • integrating enforcement strategies with wider departmental strategies across housing, 	RED	<p>R1 - WG has arranged for new rating lists to be introduced in Wales from 1 April 2023 where every non-domestic property will be assigned a new RV based on its estimated annual rental value on 01.04.2021</p> <p>R2- WG is working with LA's on transport issues and is providing related funding eg IoACC is receiving funding for town centre bus stop improvements and electric vehicle charging points</p> <p>R3 - WG has consolidated its town centre funding under the 'Transforming Towns' branding, secured multi-year allocations, and provided some temporary limited revenue funding (in addition to capital). This WG revenue funding is not sufficiently large or long-term to address the need for specific LA town centre staff capacity, and IoACC is considering the option of seeking new UK-SPF funding.</p> <p>R4 - WG provided two town centre enforcement training sessions to IoACC officers and members/ senior managers which were well-attended. IoACC has prepared a cross-departmental town centre empty properties enforcement action plan as requested by WG, and is addressing several long-term problematic sites, including securing ownership (by negotiation or CPO) and funding to redevelop Beaumaris Social Club and Plas Alltran for housing use. Staffing capacity for project planning and delivery continues to be an issue.</p> <p>R5 - WG has made a number of announcements regarding the need to prioritise and support town centres and is providing LA's with detailed guidance on how to do so. Guidance has recently been issued to LA's on preparing Place Making Plans for town centres and IoACC is in the process of drafting these. IoACC undertook a survey of its five town centres in June 2022 to map and quantify vacant and eyesore premises to inform this work.</p> <p>R6 - IoACC has completed the self-assessment process, and this was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee in February 2022.</p>	<p>R3 -IoACC secured of £1.4m of temporary UK-SPF funding</p> <p>R4 – Redevelopment of the Beaumaris Social Club now complete (demolition & new-build of 6 flats) and Plas Alltran (adaptation of derelict listed building to create 4 flats now underway) for housing use.</p> <p>R5 - September 2023 IoACC's Executive Committee agreed a Strategy for Improving Town Centres 2022-28 following stakeholder consultation during the summer. IoACC undertook a survey of its five town centres in June 2022 to map and quantify vacant and eyesore premises to inform this work, and an update is currently underway.</p> <p>R6 - The 2023 preparation and adoption of the new Ynys Mon Strategy for Improving Town Centres 2023-28 addresses the main areas for improvement, as identified in the self-assessment process.</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
	<p>environmental health, planning and regeneration teams to make more effective use of existing skills and resources; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring there is capacity and the right expertise to use the full range of powers, working in collaboration with other councils to achieve good outcomes. <p>R5 - The Welsh Government's 'Town Centres First' approach looks to put the health of town centres at the heart of the decisions taken by the Welsh Government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities. This requires a high degree of integration between cross-cutting policy frameworks and decision making to promote town centres above much else. We recommend that the Welsh Government set out how it plans to deliver this in practice, its expectations of partners and the practical steps it will take to make this ambition a reality.</p> <p>R6 - Town centres are changing, and local authorities need to be receptive to these changes and plan to manage these shifts. We recommend that local authorities use our regeneration tool to self-assess their current approaches to identify where they need to improve their work on town-centre regeneration (the tool is here).</p>			
Isle of Anglesey County Council - Workforce Planning	<p>Workforce plan implementation</p> <p>R1 - The Council needs to ensure that departmental workforce plans are formalised, adopted and implemented across all services. Assurance that Workforce Plans are living documents</p> <p>R2 - The Council must design and embed clear evaluation processes, with performance measures, into all five stages of the process to assure itself that it is proactively considering and responding to workforce planning and service demand issues appropriately and thereby managing its workforce risks effectively.</p>	Transformation	<p>We are in the process of launching the 2022-2025 workforce plan which aims to reflect the 5 ways of working and provides Heads of Service and Service Managers with guidance to ensure their workforce reviews include aspects such as lessons learnt from the pandemic, along with considering and analysing any valuable data available to their service. Service HR Officers continue to undertake regular meetings with Heads of Service to discuss their workforce plan, which includes discussions on potential risks and demands within the service.</p>	<p>HR has updated the Corporate Workforce Planning Strategy in October 2022, with a new 2022 – 2025 version with the aim of 'Getting the right people, with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time.'</p> <p>The Workforce Strategy is now a live document, we have to date provided training to all the HR Officers, and Chief Officers through the LGA. In February 2024 all middle managers will be provided training. There is a planned programme of meetings in the diary with Directors, Heads of Service and HR personnel. Following these meetings an update will be provided to the Corporate Team on the service's progress. It is envisaged that for 2025 all services will have completed the relevant annual workforce review document that is embedded into the Workforce Strategy. All Service's will need to have current workforce plan in place by April 2024</p>
Isle of Anglesey County Council - Financial Sustainability Assessment	<p>Asset Management Strategy</p> <p>R1 The Council's Asset Management Plan needs to be updated and approved.</p>	HWP	<p>The Service is in the process of developing a new corporate asset management plan. A 10-year plan setting out our goals to manage our assets in a sustainable way, contributing to achieving the Councils net zero goal whilst also ensuring the needs of our communities are met.</p>	<p>The development of our corporate asset management plan has been delayed due to the RAAC emergency and relevant officers been diverted to deal with the situation.</p> <p>However we have begun to look at this again and aim to have a final version of the new strategic plan approved by Executive in March / April 2024.</p>

Name of Report	Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	2023 Update
				<p>The new Strategic plan's strategic objectives will address the recommendations, these will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing the size of the portfolio 2. Correct property in the correct location 3. Safe property 4. Contribute towards the financial challenges 5. Reduce carbon emissions 6. Cooperate to achieve Council objectives 7. Evidence based approach 8. Work open and transparent

The Following are new for 2023 and the council response is included:

Name of Report	Relevant Local Authority Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2023
Time for change – Poverty in Wales	<p>Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R2 In Paragraphs 2.13 – 2.23 and Paragraphs 3.33 – 3.35 we highlight that councils and partners have prioritised work on poverty, but the mix of approaches and a complicated delivery landscape mean that ambitions, focus, actions and prioritisation vary widely. We highlight that evaluating activity and reporting performance are also variable with many gaps. We recommend that the councils use their Wellbeing Plans to provide a comprehensive focus on tackling poverty to co-ordinate their efforts, meet local needs and support the revised national plan targets and actions. This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include SMART local actions with a greater emphasis on prevention; include a detailed resourcing plan for the length of the strategy; be developed with involvement from other public sector partners, the third sector, and those with experience of poverty; include a robust set of consistent outcome indicators and measures to increase understanding of poverty locally; and be subject to annual public reporting to enable a whole system view of poverty locally to help improve delivery and support. <p>Leadership on the poverty agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R3 In Paragraph 2.23 we note that just over a third of councils have lead members and lead officers for addressing poverty. Given the importance of effective leadership in driving the poverty agenda forward and breaking silos within councils and between public bodies, we recommend that each council designate a cabinet member as the council's poverty champion and designate a senior officer to lead and be accountable for the anti-poverty agenda. <p>Experience mapping to create inclusive services for people in poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R5 In Paragraphs 3.2 – 3.6 we highlight that people in poverty are often in crisis, dealing with extremely personal and stressful issues, but they often find it difficult to access help from councils because of the way services are designed and delivered. We recommend that councils improve their understanding of their residents' 'lived experience' through meaningful involvement in decision-making using 'experience mapping' and/or 'Poverty Truth Commissions' to review and improve accessibility to and use of council services. <p>Single web landing page for people seeking help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R6 In Paragraph 3.14 we highlight the difficulties people in poverty face accessing online and digital services. To ensure people are able to get the information and advice they need, we recommend that councils optimise their digital services by creating a single landing page on their website that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is directly accessible on the home page; provides links to all services provided by the council that relate to poverty; and provides information on the work of partners that can assist people in poverty. <p>Streamlining and improving application and information services for people in poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R7 In Paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 we note that no council has created a single gateway into services. As a result, people have to complete multiple application forms that often record the same information when applying for similar services. We highlight that whilst it is important that councils comply with relevant data 	Transformation / Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tackling poverty agenda has been a Corporate priority for a number of Years. Over the last 12 months, we have Corporately aligned inter-departmental and external partners through the development of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A focused internal Cost of Living Programme Manager An early intervention and prevention operational group An early intervention and prevention strategic board Through the above, we have developed an internal PowerBi data analytics system whereby PI's and intelligence / data is provided by key tackling poverty groups including food banks, Bwyd Da Môn, CAB Ynys Môn, O'Toole, Financial Inclusion Team. This is gathering pace and with the addition of ONS data, is providing key themes and community-based poverty data outcomes. By this point, data analytics is available on a postcode, community or ward basis. This supports the Council in being able to respond to these needs with the view to reducing the financial burdens that households are facing and increasing financial resilience. We explored the Policy in Practice LIFT portal, to which due to cost restraints (circa. £35k per annum) and our now ability to capture and manage our data internally through PowerBi, we did not commit to this portal. Poverty data is discussed and actioned on a weekly basis. Escalation of concerns are undertaken to the Director of Social Services for both his input and support for any decisions required. We have been successful in securing a £250k Shared Prosperity Fund grant. This is aimed at providing targeted community-led approaches, on a grassroots level to tackle poverty. We do this through recruiting additional Financial Inclusion Officers x 2, a data and monitoring officer and a debt advisor through CAB Ynys Môn We were recognised on how these services achieved the immediate Cost of Living crisis in 2022. We are now in a position whereby models are in place, to which based on funding, we can scale up or down, as needed. We have over 700 units (1 unit is a person) of Housing Support Grant provision undertaken in our communities each week. This is to reduce the risk of homelessness, support vulnerable households to manage and maintain tenancies alongside supporting wellbeing challenges. This work reduces the demands and risk of residents requiring more costly statutory interventions. We have Teulu Môn and Flying Start supporting a number of households that may be at risk of future child protection measures. We have Education officers that are working closely within communities, targeting parents whereby a household risk has been identified through Schools, to which families require additional support. In 2022/23, the Council were able to post out 35,000 cost of living booklets, funded by Welsh Government hardship funds, in order to ensure all Anglesey residents had access to integral information at the time we faced the cost of living crisis. This booklet has been re-developed for 2023/24 and we shall be targeting and mapping where this information can be made available to Anglesey residents. the IoACC tackling poverty strategy is undergoing a review on a multi-agency basis.

Name of Report	Relevant Local Authority Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2023
	<p>protection legislation, they also need to share data to ensure citizens receive efficient and effective services. We recommend that councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establish corporate data standards and coding that all services use for their core data; ○ undertake an audit to determine what data is held by services and identify any duplicated records and information requests; ○ create a central integrated customer account as a gateway to services; ○ undertake a data audit to provide refresher training to service managers to ensure they know when and what data they can and cannot share; and ○ review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities. 		
‘A missed opportunity’ – Social Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1 To get the best from their work with and funding of Social Enterprises, local authorities need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place. We recommend that local authority officers use the checklist in Appendix 2 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ self-evaluate current Social Enterprise engagement, management, performance and practice; ○ identify opportunities to improve joint working; and ○ jointly draft and implement an action plan with timeframes and responsibilities clearly set out to address the gaps and weaknesses identified through the self-evaluation. • R2 To drive improvement we recommend that the local authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ formally approve the completed Action Plan; ○ regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees; and ○ revise actions and targets in light of the authority’s evaluation and assessment of its performance. • R3 To ensure the local authority delivers its S.16 responsibilities to promote Social Enterprises we recommend that it reports on current activity and future priorities following the evaluation of its Action Plan including the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services. 	CE Office / Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report was shared with the Leadership Team and a number of significant social enterprises are operational on the Island. • Social enterprises are a key element of Place Shaping where 7 alliances are now in place with 1 in development. • The PSB (in partnership with the Council and Medrwn Môn) hosted a visit from officers within the Cohesive Communities Division of the Welsh Government. They are at the beginning of their policy lifecycle in developing a Community Policy and the purpose of the visit was to understand what is going on in communities at the moment. Visits to a number of community led projects on the Island took place which included numerous social enterprises. • A number of Shared Prosperity Grants have been awarded to enhance and support social enterprise activity. • An officer attends the North Wales LA Social Enterprise Network which includes attendees from the other North Wales Council’s, Cwmpas and Menter Môn to discuss issues facing and funding for social enterprises. • Attendance at the Cwmpas event - Maximising Opportunities: Working with Social Enterprises. • Further consideration is required with regard to progressing / coordinating the support for social enterprises.
‘Cracks in the Foundations’ – Building Safety in Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R5 Local authorities should develop local action plans that articulate a clear vision for building control to be able to plan effectively to implement the requirements of the Act. The Plans should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ be based on an assessment of local risks and include mitigation actions; ○ set out how building control services will be resourced to deliver all their statutory responsibilities; ○ illustrate the key role of building control in ensuring safe buildings and be linked to well-being objectives and other corporate objectives; and ○ include outcome measures that are focused on all building control services, not just dangerous structures. • R6 Local authorities should urgently review their financial management of building control and ensure they are fully complying with Regulations. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing a timetable of regular fee reviews to ensure charges reflect the cost of services and comply with the Regulations; ○ annually reporting and publishing financial performance in line with the Regulations; ○ ensuring relevant staff are provided with training to ensure they apply the Regulations and interpret financial reporting correctly; and ○ revise fees to ensure services are charged for in accordance with the Regulations. 	RED	We will provide an organisational response to the recommendations made in the Audit Wales Report, and develop a local action plan in Q1 24/25

Name of Report	Relevant Local Authority Recommendations/ Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R7 Local authorities should work with partners to make better use of limited resources by exploring the potential for collaboration and regionalisation to strengthen resilience through a cost benefit analysis of partnering with neighbouring authorities, establishing joint ventures and/or adopting a regional model where beneficial. • R8 Local authorities should review risk management processes to ensure that risks are systematically identified, recorded, assessed, mitigated and subject to regular evaluation and scrutiny. 		
‘Together we can’ – Community resilience and self-reliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1 To strengthen community resilience and support people to be more self-reliant, local authorities need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place. We recommend that local authorities use the evaluation tool in Appendix 2 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ self-evaluate current engagement, management, performance and practice; ○ identify where improvement is needed; and ○ draft and implement an action plan with timeframes and responsibilities clearly set out to address the gaps and weaknesses identified in completing the evaluation tool. • R2 To help local authorities address the gaps they identify following their self-evaluation, we recommend that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ formally approve the completed Action Plan arising from the evaluation exercise; ○ regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees; and ○ revise actions and targets in light of the authority’s evaluation and assessment of its performance 	CE Office	<p>To ensure the Place Shaping approach continues to progress and is relevant, fit for purpose, flexible and is embedded across the Council an update on progress took place during 2023. The review also included the agreement of the vision to ensure alignment with the Council Plan 2023-2028.</p> <p>A number of Shared Prosperity Grants have been awarded to the Council and partners to enhance and improve community resilience. Governance arrangements are under development to ensure regular reporting and monitoring.</p>

We propose to remove the following reports and recommendations:

Name of Report	Recommendations / Opportunities	Service	Response from Anglesey Council 2022	Proposal
Providing Free School Meals During Lockdown	<p>Uptake of school meals increased, and councils felt they were better placed for any future school closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In June 2020, most councils reported an increase in the number of eligible free school meals pupils during the Covid-19 pandemic. •The uptake of alternative free school meals ranged from 85% to 100%, an increase from a national figure of 77% pre-Covid. •17 councils responded to our request for information and they told us in June that they were confident that should school closures happen again they are now better placed to maintain free school meal provision. •Arrangements for providing free school meals provision continue to be tested with the firebreak 'lockdown' that took place in October/November 2020 and on-going incidences of pupils being required to self-isolate. 	Learning	<p>The funding and process remains in place to include a further 4 weeks of funding for school holidays (October half-term; Christmas and February half-term). The roll out of the free school meals for all primary school children in Wales commenced in September 2022, there is no longer a need to actually make a claim for this benefit. As a result, it is likely that the number of actual claims for those eligible for the holiday benefit might decrease as this element is not automatic and some who are eligible might not make the claim</p>	<p>Free school meals are available for all primary school children in Wales and secondary pupils that are eligible. There are processes in place to identify those that are eligible.</p> <p>Propose removal</p>
* Financial Sustainability of Local Government as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic *	<p>Why we have produced this report</p> <p>1 We had already identified financial sustainability as a key risk to councils' arrangements before the pandemic occurred. This was, in part, due to the significant pressures on UK and, therefore, Welsh public finances following the financial crisis of 2008-09. We produced a report on the financial sustainability of each local council during 2019-20, and these reports showed that councils were in very different positions in terms of their level of reserves and track record of spending within their agreed budgets.</p> <p>2 Against this backdrop the pandemic has already had an even more profound and immediate effect on public sector finances as a whole and, as a consequence, on councils' financial position. The impact on public sector spending over such a short period of time is unprecedented in modern peace time.</p> <p>3 This report is the beginning of our work looking at the financial</p>	Resources	<p>The Financial sustainability of the Council continues to be monitored and reported on to the Executive and the Full Council.</p>	<p>The Financial sustainability of the Council continues to be monitored and reported on to the Executive and the Full Council.</p> <p>Propose removal</p>

	<p>sustainability of local councils during 2020-21, building on the work we completed in 2019-20. The report sets a high-level baseline position, including the reserves position, of local councils before the pandemic. It also sets out the initial financial implications of the pandemic for local councils and the scale of the anticipated challenge going forward, as well as some reflections on the preparedness of local government in Wales for such an unprecedented event. Finally, we set out how Audit Wales intends to provide support and constructive challenge to councils and the local government sector, as a whole, over the remainder of 2020-21, in their efforts to maintain financial sustainability against such significant funding pressures.</p>			
<p>The National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2018-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants in the NFI exercise should ensure that they maximise the benefits of their participation. They should consider whether it is possible to work more efficiently on the NFI matches by reviewing the guidance section within the NFI secure web application. Audit committees, or equivalent, and officers leading the NFI should review the NFI self-appraisal checklist. This will ensure they are fully informed of their organisation's planning and progress in the 2020-22 NFI exercise. Where auditors have identified specific areas where improvements could be made, the public bodies should act on these as soon as possible. All participants should be aware of emerging fraud risks e.g., due to COVID-19, and take appropriate preventative and detective action 	Resources	<p>Implemented. The Senior Auditor uses the risk-based functionality of the NFI secure web application when considering which matches to review. The NFI Checklist was completed for the 2020-22 exercise and will be revisited during the 2022-24 exercise. Any improvement areas identified will be reported to the Governance and Audit Committee when it considers the updated Counter fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy for 2022-25.</p> <p>Implemented. The Council's Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy 2021-24 identified emerging fraud risks and identified where improvements could be made.</p> <p>Implemented. Annual Report Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption 2021-22 was submitted to Governance and Audit Committee in September 2022. No frauds were discovered from the NFI 2020-22 biennial exercise.</p> <p>Implemented. A Senior Auditor has been given responsibility to upload data requested for the NFI biennial exercise, which is currently in progress for the 2022-23 exercise. Resource will be put into reviewing high-risk matches when the matches are released early next year.</p> <p>Implemented. The North & Mid Wales Audit Partnership Counter Fraud Subgroup meets on a regular basis and discusses NFI issues and outcomes as a standing item.</p>	<p>All have been implemented.</p> <p>Propose Removal</p>
<p>Waste Management in Wales: Preventing waste</p>	<p>R1 Increasing the focus on waste prevention to reflect the overall aims of Towards 0 Waste Available data on the amount of waste produced suggests mixed progress to deliver the Welsh Government's waste prevention</p>	HWP	<p>The Council fully supports the aims and targets of the Wales waste strategy on waste prevention. The Welsh Government has set very high targets and Anglesey Council will do everything possible to achieve the desired outcomes.</p>	<p>Propose Removal due to being WG recommendations</p>

	<p>targets. We recommend that the Welsh Government:</p> <p>a) revisits the relative priority it gives to recycling and waste prevention as part of its review of Towards Zero Waste;</p> <p>b) sets out clearly the expectations on different organisations and sectors for waste prevention; and</p> <p>c) revisits its overall waste prevention targets and the approach it has taken to monitor them in light of progress to date, examples from other countries and in the context of current projections about waste arising through to 2050.</p> <p>R2 Improving data on commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste The Welsh Government is a partner in initial work to assess the feasibility of developing a new digital solution to track all waste. If this preferred option does not succeed, we recommend that the Welsh Government works with Natural Resources Wales to explore the costs and benefits of other options to improve non-municipal waste data in Wales, including additional powers to require waste data from businesses.</p> <p>R3 Enhancing producer responsibility and using more legal, Financial and fiscal levers The Welsh Government has opportunities to influence waste prevention through legislation and financial incentives. It can also influence changes at UK level where fiscal matters are not devolved. We recommend that the Welsh Government consider whether provisions to extend producer responsibility and the use of financial powers such as grant conditions, fiscal measures and customer charges and incentives, are needed to promote and to prioritise waste prevention.</p>		<p>Although the Council's main focus is on managing municipal waste, it fully supports working in partnership with all sectors to improve data collection from the commercial, industrial and construction sectors.</p> <p>Regarding enhancing producer responsibility to influence waste prevention, once again the Council fully supports all initiatives to promote this approach to managing waste in Wales.</p>	
<p>Commercialisation in Local Government</p>	<p>R1 Undertaking commercialisation requires councils to have enough capacity, the right skills and robust but agile systems to be in place. We recommend that councils use our self-evaluation tools to develop a strategy for the extent to which they want to pursue commercialisation.</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>The Council undertakes some commercial activity however this is limited due to the nature of the Island. In addition, the current economic situation does not provide the opportunity to invest further.</p>	<p>Propose Removal due to previous response</p>

Rough Sleeping in Wales – Everyone’s Problem; No One’s Responsibility	<p>Intelligent use of data</p> <p>R1 Public bodies and third sector partners should ensure they use data to plan the right future services, and to put in place effective data sharing protocols to ensure they respond effectively and safely to people sleeping rough. We recommend that councils and their partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invest in data analytical skills to better understand the current situation and predict future demand to prevent future homelessness; • review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities effectively; and • introduce a single data capture and risk assessment process for to help support safe decisions making in dealing with people sleeping rough. <p>Integrated services to tackle complex needs</p> <p>R2 Because public bodies are responding to people in crisis, they often deal with acute issues in isolation and rarely address the fundamental cause of the crisis. To do this requires public bodies to design and create service delivery models that are responsive. We recommend that public bodies use our complex needs self-reflection tool to improve how they can jointly address complex needs in the future (the tool is set out at Appendix</p>	Housing	<p>We work with a range of public bodies and utilise publicly available information of our HSG Needs Assessment. We have a data sharing agreement with HMPSS and Probation to share relevant information on case-by-case basis. We promote Streetlink to help identify rough sleepers and work with partners to offer a outreach services. We offer a complex case service for persons who are homeless to ensure that we work together to address homelessness.</p>	<p>Propose Removal due to previous response</p>
North Wales Economic Ambition Board – Progress Review of the North Wales Growth Deal	<p>Proposals for improvement</p> <p>P1 - The North Wales councils, through the NWEAB, should develop a risk management strategy and develop a risk register which includes consideration of new risks to projects presented by external circumstances such as Brexit, COVID-19 and other pressures on the local economy.</p> <p>P2 - The North Wales councils, through the NWEAB, should widen their contacts with the business community to increase opportunities to support delivery of their objectives.</p> <p>P3 - Ensure that policies and procedures reflect the need to uphold public sector transparency and values</p>	RED	<p>P1 - The NWEAB have developed their own risk registers on the projects that they have responsibility for delivering. Through the Project Boards, the councils feed into the RR.</p> <p>P2 - Where capacity and resource allows, the councils continue to foster relationships with the business community directly and indirectly through partners/ stakeholders</p> <p>P3 - Project Boards have been established to challenge the projects and ensure reflect the need to uphold transparency in decision making and there are also opportunities for further scrutiny through Council Leaders and sessions with individual councils.</p> <p>P4 - See above</p> <p>P5 - This has been detailed and agreed across all councils in the GA2 agreement with the Ambition Board</p> <p>P6 - This aspect will be covered as part of the Outline and Full Business Cases being completed by the PMO as part of the various project stages</p>	<p>Propose Removal</p> <p>Process is managed by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p>

	<p>in decision making whilst operating in the very competitive and commercial business environment.</p> <p>P4 - Establish formal, timely scrutiny of the NWEAB that provides public transparency and keeps sponsoring councils informed.</p> <p>P5 - Develop agreements that clearly set out the support provided to the PMO by Gwynedd Council such as governance, human resources and finance.</p> <p>P6 - When reviewing feasibility of individual projects, define how each contributes to delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015's seven Well-being Goals.</p>			
<p>Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030</p>	<p>Considerable activity is taking place to reduce carbon emissions. However, public bodies need to increase their pace of activity amid clear uncertainty about whether they will achieve the collective ambition to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030. There are real barriers that public bodies need to address, and decarbonisation needs to be put at the heart of their day-to-day activities.</p> <p>In our report, the Auditor General makes the following five calls for action from public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration. • Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation. • Get to grips with the finances you need. • Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity; and • Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making. 	<p>CE Office</p>	<p>By reviewing the Auditor Generals' Report, Council officers have considered the recommendations made and identified opportunities to improve its approach to reaching net zero. These opportunities have been prioritised and collated within a recent report presented to both Leadership Team and the informal Executive Committee. The Councils report will also be presented to the Governance and Audit committee.</p>	<p>Propose Removal – Following consultation with Leadership Team, informal Executive Committee and Governance & Audit Committee, actions identified from the report have been integrated within the Towards Net Zero Plan 2022-25</p>