

Vale of Glamorgan Council

WAO performance audit work programme 2017-18 update **January 2018**

Item no.	Project	Description	Update	Timescale	Actual Date
1	Year one commentary on Well Being of Future Generations Act/ Baseline	<p>This project will gather evidence on how the 44 bodies are beginning to respond to the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations Act and identify examples of notable emerging practice.</p> <p>There will be no local report but it is intended that the baseline will inform a commentary to be published in the summer of 2018.</p>	<p>The Council submitted its Call for Evidence response and the Wales Audit Office has reviewed that alongside a number of documents.</p> <p>Follow up discussions were held with the Managing Director and the Leader on 20 October that focussed on gathering further information on the Council's approach to implementing the Act.</p>	<p>Publication of national commentary in Spring 2018</p> <p>Event – 17 May 2018</p>	

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2	Well Being of Future Generations Act pilot	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council has agreed to work with the Wales Audit Office (WAO) to develop and test audit methods that could be used by WAO in future years. Specifically, the pilot project will test methods that could be used to undertake examinations under the Act.</p> <p>The pilot project will also provide an opportunity for the Council to reflect on the way it is applying the sustainable development principle and on how it could further develop its approach.</p> <p>The learning from this pilot project will also help to inform the WAO's development of other pilot projects.</p> <p>The Council will benefit from the audit by gaining insight into how well the sustainable development principle is being applied across the organisation. The Council will also gain learning that can help it improve how it applies the sustainable development principle.</p>	<p>A project brief has been shared with the Council.</p> <p>Currently the Council and WAO are collaboratively developing a Sensemaker© survey for use with officers. We are continuing to refine the questions and intend to roll it out early this year.</p> <p>The survey will then be finalised and sent to a wider group of staff.</p> <p>WAO facilitated a workshop to pilot the questions with the Insight Board on 5 December.</p> <p>A meeting with the Managing Director to discuss this further is scheduled for 26 January.</p>	Early 2018	

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3	Scrutiny - fit for the future	<p>National themed review in all 22 Welsh councils.</p> <p>The review will explore whether the Council's overview and scrutiny function is well placed to respond to current and future challenges including the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act), in relation to their scrutiny activity, as well as how councils are beginning to undertake scrutiny of public service boards. We will examine how well placed councils are to respond to future challenges including continued pressure on public finances and the possible move towards more regional working between local authorities.</p> <p>The review involves interviews, focus groups and observations of a sample of scrutiny committees.</p>	<p>The Project brief has been issued.</p> <p>Arrangements are in place to undertake interviews/focus groups with a range of members and officers during January and February 2018.</p> <p>There was a focus group with Cabinet on 29 November and the Managing Director has also been interviewed.</p> <p>The Wales Audit Office has already observed the Healthy Living and Social Care, the Corporate Performance and Resources and the Learning and Culture scrutiny committees.</p>	March 2018	
4	Service User Review	<p>National themed review in all 22 Welsh councils.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to gain assurance and insight into the extent to which services respond to the needs and expectations of service users both in their design and delivery, and take their views and aspirations into account. We will examine how service users feel they are able to influence the design and delivery of services and what changes to the</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing with officers around the planning of this work.</p> <p>We will look to deliver this project alongside the proposed work on Welsh Housing Quality Standard.</p>	To be determined	

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		<p>design and delivery of services would help to better meet their needs, and the implications of this for value for money and achievement of intended outcomes.</p> <p>Our work at the Council will focus on the Council's housing tenants.</p>			
5	Welsh Housing Quality Standard	A review to determine whether the Council has effective arrangements in place to meet WHQS.	Project brief to be issued. We will look to deliver this work alongside our service user perspective work, which is focused on the Council's housing tenants.	To be determined	
6	Digital Risk	An overview of the level of digital risk the Council faces. The diagnostic will be used by the Wales Audit Office to identify 'potential' digital risks and issues at the Council. Potential risks identified will be used to focus auditors on areas where further, more specific IM&T performance work might be needed.	Draft project brief issued to Council. Fieldwork likely to be January/February 2018.	February/ March 2018	
7	Aligning Levers of change	<p>The purpose of this review is to support the development of local action that will promote positive practice and help identify barriers to be addressed. The review will assist councils to refine current arrangements in Councils by promoting what is working well, identifying any barriers and developing local improvement opportunities.</p> <p>This review will build on the Council's recent Management Development Programme by looking at the topics of digitisation and income</p>	<p>Project brief issued.</p> <p>A workshop with members was run on Thursday 14th December. Unfortunately the scheduled workshop on Monday 18th December was cancelled because of a very low turnout and we are looking to re-schedule this second event.</p>	March 2018	

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		generation/commercialisation The review will engage members and discuss these topics with them.			
8	Improvement Plan – certificate of compliance	Review Council’s forward looking report setting out its improvement objectives for the year.	Complete. Certificate issued to Council 26 May	May 2017	May 2017
9	Assessment of Performance – certificate of compliance	Review of the Council’s report of performance against its improvement objectives. The Council published its performance report on 26 October.	Audit has been completed and the certificate was issued on 17 November 2017.	November 2017	17 November 2017
Report to note	Good governance when determining significant service changes – National Summary	This report is designed primarily to provide insight, share existing practice and prompt further conversations and discussions between councils and other organisations. It is available on WAO website .	The report cites three examples of practice from the Council. Those being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public participation in scrutiny meetings • Shaping scrutiny arrangements around well-being objectives • Strengthening equality impact assessments 	October 2017	October 2017
Local Government National Studies 2016-17					
Item no.	Project	Description	Update	Timescale	Actual Date
10	Addressing dependency and demand for public services through the development of effective prevention approaches	The study focuses on a specific tracer area of homelessness in local authorities using the recent prevention duties placed on local authorities to judge how demand for services is managed.	Report published. This is available on the WAO website The Vale of Glamorgan was not selected to take part in the detailed fieldwork of this study.	Publish Autumn 2017	January 2018

Item no.	Project	Description	Update	Timescale	Actual Date
11	Strategic Commissioning	The review focuses on learning disability schemes as a tracer in local authorities and will assess how effectively strategic commissioning is being delivered. Fieldwork focussed on both the corporate approach to strategic commissioning but also used findings from the tracer area to understand how effective operational arrangements are. We have worked with CSSIW and SSIA and have built on the recent national inspection and support work on learning disabilities.	Report currently in clearance. The Vale of Glamorgan was not selected to take part in the detailed fieldwork of this study.	Publish March 2018	
12	Improving joint work on housing and health	We have reviewed how adaptations prevent access to and speed up discharge from hospitals. The work has looked at how health use adaptations to underpin their activity as well as how efficient and effective organisations are at procuring and delivering adaptations work. The study is seeking to answer the following main question: Is there an effective strategic approach to housing adaptations that delivers value for money and assures the continued wellbeing of vulnerable people?	Report currently in clearance. The Vale of Glamorgan was not selected to take part in the detailed fieldwork of this study.	Publish February 2018	
Local Government National Studies 2017-18					
Item no.	Project	Description	Update	Timescale	Actual Date
13	Services to rural communities	The study will focus on whether local government uses its resources to deliver services that meet the needs of rural communities today and in the longer term.	The Vale of Glamorgan has been selected to take part in the detailed fieldwork of this study.	September 2018	

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		It will consider the strategic approach of councils, engagement of partner organisations and the public in planning services and if councils are effectively integrating services to ensure they are making best use of resources in continuing to deliver services?	<p>The study team attended the Vale Show on 9 August to gather public views on current and future council services.</p> <p>Fieldwork took place on 12 and 13 December 2017.</p>		
14	Using data effectively	This study will seek to identify whether councils' corporate management arrangements for managing and using data are leading to better decision making in the use of resources.	<p>The study will collect information from all councils in Wales.</p> <p>A short survey has been issued to the following respondents across all councils in Wales</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate Management teams 2. ICT Managers 3. Information Officers 4. Policy Officers 5. Operational Managers 6. and Elected Members <p>The survey closed on 12 December.</p> <p>The study team will then analyse the responses to identify notable practice in the management and use of data and barriers to further progress. We will conduct either face-to-face or telephone interviews with officers.</p>	August 2018	

Item no.	Project	Description	Update	Timescale	Actual Date
National Studies Update					
Item no.	Project and description		Update		
15	Emergency Ambulance Services Commissioning		Published 2 Aug 2017. Link to published report		
16	The 21 st Century Schools and Education Programme		Published 25 May 2017. Link to Published Report		
17	Waste management		Recycling module (clearance); waste prevention and waste treatment infrastructure modules (drafting)		
18	Public procurement (including development of the National Procurement Service)		Published 17 October 2017. Link to published report		
19	Implementation of the NHS Finances (Wales) Act 2014 (integrated medium term planning)		Published July 2017. Link to published report		
20	Welsh Government financial support for Carmarthenshire Energy Ltd		Published July 2017. Link to published report		
21	Supporting people programme		Published 31 August 2017. Link to published report		
22	NHS Wales informatics services		Published 10 January 2018. Link to published report		
23	Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation		Drafting		
24	Fiscal devolution in Wales		Published December 2017. Link to published report		
25	Early intervention and public behaviour change		Drafting		
26	Welsh Government business finance		Drafting (phase 1)		
27	Primary care		Drafting (phase 1) – local audit work to follow		
28	Youth services		Fieldwork		
29	Rural Development Programme 2014-2020		Drafting		
30	European Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020		Fieldwork		
31	Integrated Care Fund		Scoping		
32	Care experienced children and young people – audit work to support ongoing Public Accounts Committee inquiry		Scoping		
33	Intermediate Care Fund		Scoping		

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