

Name of Committee:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	30/04/2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	WAO Performance Work Programme Update
Purpose of Report:	To provide Members with an update on the Performance Audit Programme which is delivered by the Welsh Audit Office.
Report Owner:	Managing Director
Responsible Officer:	Head of Finance
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	No Elected Members have been consulted. Legal Services and Head of Finance.
Policy Framework:	The proposals in this report are in accordance with the policy framework and budget.

Executive Summary:

- The Performance Audit Programme outlines work to be undertaken in the Council between April 2018 and March 2019 by and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as amended from time to time and Parts 2 and 3A of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 as amended from time to time.
- A copy of the Performance Audit Work for 2018/19 sets out the identified work and scope and the status of that work as at April 2019.
- The work, scope and status of Local Government Studies for both 2017/18 and 2018/19 and National Studies are also listed for information

1. Recommendation

- 1.1** That Audit Committee consider the content of this report and note the progress to date.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1** In order to review and progress the Performance Audit Programme.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Performance Audit Programme outlines work to be undertaken in the Council between April 2018 and March 2019 by and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as amended from time to time and Parts 2 and 3A of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 as amended from time to time.

4. Key Issues for Consideration

- 4.1** A copy of the Performance Audit Work for 2018/19 is attached at Appendix 1. It sets out the identified work and scope and the status of that work as at April 2019.
- 4.2** The work, scope and status of Local Government Studies for both 2017/18 and 2018/19 and National Studies are also listed

5. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 5.1** The update includes examination of the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principles when taking steps to meet the following wellbeing objective: Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment.

6. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 6.1** The implementation of the Performance Audit Programme requires staff resources. In common with all other local authorities, the Council will be considering some challenging options for future service delivery given the current and likely future settlements.

Employment

- 6.2** None as a direct consequence of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 6.3** The Council has a duty to improve under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as amended from time to time and the Local Government Act 2000 as amended from time to time.

- 6.4** Background Papers

Appendix 1: Vale of Glamorgan Performance Audit Work Update April 2019

Vale of Glamorgan Council Audit Committee Update – April 2019

Performance Audit work

2018-19 performance audit work	Scope	Status
Improvement Plan audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to publish a self-assessment of performance in the previous year by 31 October.	Certificate issued to Council 4th June 2018.
Performance audit	Checks Council compliance with Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 requirement to set improvement objectives.	Certificate issued to Council 29th November 2018
Annual Improvement Report (AIR)	Annual report summarising the audit work undertaken in the last year which also includes a summary of the key findings from reports issued by 'relevant regulators'	Not started. Likely timescales June/July 2019
Financial planning and transformation	We will follow up the proposals for improvement made in our savings planning report issued to the Council in April 2017 and undertake ongoing monitoring of the Council's transformation programme, providing real-time challenge during the year.	Internal review replicated this brief. Project carried forward into 2019-20 work programme.

Assurance and risk assessment	Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources.	Complete
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations	Examination of the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principles when taking steps to meet the following wellbeing objective: Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment. Comprehensive programme of Regeneration activities across the Vale including Barry element of the Town Centre Framework and Barry Waterfront including Barry Island Link Road	Underway
Leisure services	Review of the arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver leisure services building on the 'study previously undertaken by the Auditor General as part of the 'delivering with less' themed studies.	Underway
Environmental health	Review of the arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver environmental health services building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General as part of the 'delivering with less' themed studies.	Planning
Corporate safeguarding arrangements	Review of the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding arrangements building on the study previously undertaken by the Auditor General in this area.	Underway

2017-18 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>Services to rural communities</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Link The maturity of local government in use of data</p>
<p>Using data effectively</p>	<p>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> <p>The study will collect information from all councils in Wales.</p> <p>A short survey was issued across all councils in Wales</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Link to Local Government Services to Local Communities</p> <p>Link Provision of Local Government Services to Rural Communities:Community Asset Transfer</p>
2018-19 Local Government Studies	Scope	Status
<p>First point of contact assessments under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014</p>	<p>The Welsh Government introduced the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act), which focuses on reforming and simplifying the law relating to social services. The 2014 Act introduced new duties for local authorities, local health boards and other public bodies and covers adults, children and their carers, and came into force on 6 April 2016. The study will review first point of contact and assessments for adult social care.</p> <p>Detailed fieldwork in five local authorities. We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Cardiff City Council, Denbighshire County Council, Merthyr</p>	<p>Underway</p>

	Tydfil County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council	
Tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence	<p>In 2015 the Welsh Government passed the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act (the 2015 Act). The overarching objective of the 2015 Act is to improve the Public Sector response to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; provide a strategic focus on these issues; and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services. The review will focus on determining whether local authorities and their partners are effectively working together to prevent gender-based violence and domestic abuse, and protecting all of the people involved.</p> <p>Our fieldwork sites are Swansea City and County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Flintshire County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</p>	Underway
Planning Services: Improving the wellbeing of Wales	<p>Planning services are an important part of the democratic jigsaw that allows the detailed consideration of proposals to improve the economic prospects of the nation. Good planning decisions can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people and places. Poor planning decisions can have a detrimental impact on people’s wellbeing and can stifle economic development. This study will provide independent assurance that planning authorities are supporting sustainable development and delivering for the future long-term wellbeing of their communities and for Wales</p> <p>We are planning to undertake fieldwork in Bridgend County Borough Council, Gwynedd County Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council and Ceredigion County Council.</p>	Underway
National Studies	Update and link to report	
Improving the well-being of young people	Underway	

Primary care services	Published April 2018. Link to published report
Integrated care fund	Underway
Reflecting on Year One – Well-being of Future Generations Act	Published 10 th May 2018 LINK
Waste management	Recycling module (published Link); waste prevention (published Link) and waste treatment infrastructure modules (published Link)
NHS Wales informatics services	Published 10 January 2018. Link to published report
Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation	Published 25 April 2018. Link to published report
Early intervention and public behaviour change	Drafting
Welsh Government business finance	Publish 29 th November 2018
Managing the Impact of Brexit on the Rural Development Programme	Published November 28 th November 2018 Link
European Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020	Published August 2018 Link