



WALES AUDIT OFFICE  
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Auditor General for Wales

# Wales Audit Office Work Programme: Corporate Governance Committee Update, September 2017 – **Denbighshire County Council**

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This document was produced by the Wales Audit Office. We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. This document is also available in Welsh.

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# Audit work programme

## Financial audit work 2016-17 – Denbighshire County Council

Exhibit 1: Financial audit work 2016-17 – Denbighshire County Council

Activity	Scope	Status
<b>Audit of Financial Statements 2016-17</b>	Plan of financial audit work for 2016-17.	Report finalised March 2017. Presented to the Corporate Governance Committee March 2017.
<b>Audit of Financial Statements 2016-17</b>	Audit of Denbighshire County Council's (the Council) 2016-17 Financial Statements.	Report is to be presented to the Corporate Governance Committee September 2017.
<b>Opinion on the Financial Statements</b>	Opinion on the Council's 2016-17 Financial Statements.	Report is to be presented to the Corporate Governance Committee September 2017.
<b>Annual Audit Letter</b>	Report summarising our 2016-17 financial audit work.	Report is to be presented to the Corporate Governance Committee November 2017.

## Performance audit work 2016-17 – Denbighshire County Council

Exhibit 2: Performance audit work 2016-17 – Denbighshire County Council

Activity	Scope	Status
<b>Audit Plan</b>	Plan of performance audit work for 2016-17.	Complete – Corporate Governance Committee March 2016.
<b>Improvement Plan Audit</b>	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an improvement plan.	Complete – Review complete. Certificate issued.
<b>Assessment of performance</b>	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Complete – see above.
<b>Annual Improvement Report (AIR)</b>	<p>Report from the Audit General for Wales reviewing the Council's performance and arrangements.</p> <p>The AIR report included the local project work. In this review we concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement;</li> <li>• having made significant progress in delivering its current vision, the Council is developing an updated plan to describe its vision and key ambitions for the future and how it will operate as an organisation;</li> <li>• the Council has a clear framework and sound governance arrangements for significant service changes but evaluating the impact of service change is not always timely; and</li> <li>• in general the Council manages its resources well, but a lack of co-ordination between other corporate strategies may limit the contribution individual services can make towards the Council's goals.</li> </ul>	Published June 2017.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Thematic Study: Financial Resilience</b>	Focus: Savings Plans.	Local report issued February 2017.
<b>Thematic Study: Governance</b>	Focus: Governance of significant service changes.	Local report issued June 2017.
<b>Thematic Study: Transformation</b>	To gather the views of officers about the key issues they face in dealing with change/transformation.	Projected timescale: June – December 2017. Feedback to Chief Executive.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – Improving wellbeing through housing adaptations</b>	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Autumn 2017.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – Strategic commissioning of learning disability services by local authorities</b>	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Autumn 2017.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – How local government manages demand – Homelessness services</b>	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Autumn 2017.

## Performance audit work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

Exhibit 3: Performance audit work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

Activity	Scope	Status
<b>Audit Plan</b>	Plan of performance audit work for 2017-18.	Report finalised March 2017.
<b>Improvement Plan Audit</b>	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an improvement plan.	Complete – Certificate issued April 2017.
<b>Assessment of performance</b>	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an assessment of performance.	To be undertaken once the Council publishes the assessment of performance report.
<b>Annual Improvement Report (AIR)</b>	Report from the Auditor General for Wales reviewing the Council's performance and arrangements.	To be published Summer 2018.
<b>Thematic Study: Well-Being of Future Generations – Baseline assessment</b>	The Year One Commentary: Wales Audit Office will gather evidence on how the 44 bodies are beginning to respond to the requirements of the WFG Act and identify examples of notable emerging practice. The work will be designed to support improvement and inform future audit work under the Act.	To take place throughout the 2017-18 audit year. Project Brief issued.
<b>Thematic Study: Scrutiny – Fit for the Future</b>	This review will examine the impact of the WFG Act on the work of scrutiny committees.	To take place throughout the 2017-18 audit year. Project Brief issued.
<b>Thematic Study: Service user review</b>	This project will test the service-user interface at all authorities. The review will evaluate what it feels like (as a member of the public) to deal with council services, involving a selection of services and scenarios.	To take place throughout the 2017-18 audit year. Project Brief issued.

Activity	Scope	Status
<b>Other Local Project work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) .</b> The purpose of this local overview is to determine whether the Council has effective arrangements in place to enable it to continue to meet the WHQS</li> </ul>	To take place throughout the 2017-18 audit year. Project Brief issued.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – Integrated Care Fund</b>	Intermediate Care Fund has recently been renamed as the Integrated Care Fund (ICF). The review will look at the governance arrangements associated with the ICF at both a national level and at a local level through the regional partnership boards.	Project Brief to be issued.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – Using data effectively</b>	This study will primarily focus on the role of local authorities in how effective they are at managing and using data. It will also consider how effective authorities are at accessing and using data held by partners. It is recognised, however, that councils are at very different stages in terms of how they use data. This audit will therefore assess each local authority on their performance identifying how well authorities are currently performing in collecting data, analysing data and using data to support decision-making and the use of resources.	Project Brief issued – June 2017.
<b>Local Government Improvement Study – How well do public bodies provide services to rural communities</b>	This review will focus on assessing how effective public organisations in Wales are in working together to assess needs, identify priorities, deliver and maintain the provision of key operational services to meet the needs of people in rural communities.	Project Brief issued – June 2017.



Activity	Scope	Status
<b>National Wales Audit Office reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public procurement landscape review</li> <li>• Waste management (waste prevention)</li> <li>• Supporting People programme</li> <li>• Implementation of the NHS Finances (Wales) Act 2014 (integrated medium term planning)</li> <li>• NHS Wales informatics services</li> <li>• Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation</li> <li>• Preparations for the implementation of fiscal devolution in Wales (follow-on report)</li> </ul>	Reports being drafted. Publication Autumn 2017.

## Other inspection work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

### Exhibit 4: Other inspection work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

Activity	Scope	Status
<b>2017-18 Estyn</b>	Apart from local school inspection programme no specific work is planned in Denbighshire.	GwE follow-up work Autumn 2017.
<b>2017-18 CSSIW</b>	Nationally CSSIW are doing a joint review of community mental health services. No local follow-up work in Denbighshire has yet been announced.	National report.

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