



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
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Auditor General for Wales

Wales Audit Office Work Programme: Corporate Governance Committee Update, February 2018 – **Denbighshire County Council**

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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
Audit of Financial Statements 2016-17	Plan of financial audit work for 2016-17.	Report finalised March 2017. Presented to the Corporate Governance Committee March 2017.
Audit of Financial Statements 2016-17	Audit of Denbighshire County Council's (the Council) 2016-17 Financial Statements.	Report presented to the Corporate Governance Committee September 2017.
Opinion on the Financial Statements	Opinion on the Council's 2016-17 Financial Statements.	Report presented to the Corporate Governance Committee September 2017.
Annual Audit Letter	Letter summarising our 2016-17 financial audit work.	Letter issued to the Council November 2017 and to be presented to the Corporate Governance Committee February 2018.

Performance audit work 2016-17 – Denbighshire County Council

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

Activity	Scope	Status
Audit Plan	Plan of performance audit work for 2016-17.	Complete – Corporate Governance Committee March 2016.
Improvement Plan Audit	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an improvement plan.	Complete – Review complete. Certificate issued.
Assessment of performance	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Complete – see above.
Annual Improvement Report (AIR)	<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"> • the Council continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement; • 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; • 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 • 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. 	Published June 2017.

Activity	Scope	Status
Thematic Study: Financial Resilience	Focus: Savings Plans.	Local report issued February 2017.
Thematic Study: Governance	Focus: Governance of significant service changes.	Local report issued June 2017.
Thematic Study: Transformation	To gather the views of officers about the key issues they face in dealing with change/transformation.	Project complete. Feedback to Chief Executive October 2017.
Local Government Improvement Study – Improving wellbeing through housing adaptations	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Winter 2018.
Local Government Improvement Study – Strategic commissioning of learning disability services by local authorities	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Winter 2018.
Local Government Improvement Study – How local government manages demand – Homelessness services	Fieldwork completed.	Publication Winter 2018.

Performance audit work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

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

Activity	Scope	Status
Audit Plan	Plan of performance audit work for 2017-18.	Report finalised March 2017.
Improvement Plan Audit	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an improvement plan.	Complete – Certificate issued April 2017.
Assessment of performance	Audit of the discharge of the Council's duty to publish an assessment of performance.	Complete – Certificate issued November 2017
Annual Improvement Report (AIR)	Report from the Auditor General for Wales reviewing the Council's performance and arrangements.	To be published Summer 2018.
Thematic Study: Well-Being of Future Generations – Baseline assessment	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.	Fieldwork complete. National summary report Spring 2018.
Thematic Study: Scrutiny – Fit for the Future	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. Fieldwork to be completed January 2018

Activity	Scope	Status
Thematic Study: Service user review Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)	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. In addition 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.	To take place throughout the 2017-18 audit year. Fieldwork complete. Draft report to be issued February 2018.
Local Government Improvement Study – Integrated Care Fund	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.
Local Government Improvement Study – Using data effectively	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. Survey issued to Denbighshire in Autumn 2017.

Activity	Scope	Status
Local Government Improvement Study – How well do public bodies provide services to rural communities	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. Survey issued to Denbighshire in Summer 2017.
National Wales Audit Office reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public procurement landscape review • Waste management (waste prevention) • Supporting People programme • Implementation of the NHS Finances (Wales) Act 2014 (integrated medium term planning) • NHS Wales informatics services • Access to public services with the support of specialist interpretation and translation • Preparations for the implementation of fiscal devolution in Wales (follow-on report) 	Supporting People report published August 2017. Public procurement report published November 2017. Remaining Reports being drafted. Publication Winter/Spring 2018.

Other inspection work 2017-18 – Denbighshire County Council

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

Activity	Scope	Status
2017-18 Estyn	Apart from local school inspection programme an inspection of the Denbighshire education service is planned with fieldwork in February 2018.	GwE follow-up report published November 2017. Report on Denbighshire Council education service to be published Spring 2018.
2017-18 CSSIW	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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