

## Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Denbighshire County Council

**Quarterly Update: 30 June 2021**

### Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
<b>Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts</b>	Statutory audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) Regulations 2014.	Audit Committee to approve audited financial statements 26 September 2021.	Awaiting receipt of the draft 2020-21 Group statement of accounts for the Authority to enable the audit to commence.
<b>Certification of the Council's Grant claims and returns 2020-21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Domestic Rates return</li> <li>• Teachers' Pensions Return</li> <li>• Social Care Workforce Development Claim</li> <li>• Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim</li> </ul>	Certification that the Council's grant claims are prepared in accordance with the certificate instructions.	Report to the grants paying bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 November 2021</li> <li>• 30 November 2021</li> <li>• 7 January 2022</li> <li>• 31 January 2022</li> </ul>	Fieldwork to commence in the Autumn 2021.

## Performance Audit work

2020-21 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
<b>Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements</b>	A project common to north Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board that reviewed how partners collaborate in the strategic commissioning of residential and nursing home care.	September 2021	Draft local report will be issued in July 2021.
<b>Financial Sustainability</b>	A project common to all local councils that will assess financial sustainability in light of current and anticipated future challenges building on work undertaken during 2019-20.	July 2021	Draft local report issued.  National Summary Report due to be published late summer/autumn 2021.
<b>Delivering environmental ambitions</b>	The review focused on the robustness of the Council's arrangements that support continuous and sustainable improvement.	July 2021	Fieldwork complete.

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
<b>Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations</b>	We will seek to integrate the delivery of our WFG examinations of steps to deliver wellbeing objectives with our other audit work. We will discuss this with the Council as we scope and deliver the audit projects listed in this plan.	N/A	N/A

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
<b>Improvement reporting audit</b>	Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.	September/October 2021	Pending publication of the Council's annual performance report.
<b>Assurance and Risk Assessment</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>At Denbighshire County Council the project is likely to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• financial position</li> <li>• self-assessment arrangements</li> <li>• recovery planning</li> <li>• implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act</li> <li>• carbon reduction plans</li> </ul>	April 2021 to March 2022	Ongoing.
<b>Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future</b>	As the world moves forward, learning from the global pandemic, this review looks at how effectively councils are strengthening their ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of services, including those delivered in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.	Planned for Autumn 2021 onwards – to be confirmed following scoping.	Project scoping.

<b>2021-22 Performance audit work</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Driving Sustained Performance Improvement</b>	Review of the Council's approach to performance management as it supports and informs recovery planning and delivery of continuous sustainable improvement.	July to August 2022	Project scoping.

### Local government national studies planned/in progress

<b>Study</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Fieldwork planned at Denbighshire County Council</b>
<b>Town Centre Regeneration</b>	Review of how local authorities and their partners are addressing town centre regeneration	Publication September 2021.	Drafting.	N/A
<b>Direct Payments</b>	Review of how local authorities manage and promote the use of Direct Payments	Publication Autumn 2021.	Fieldwork complete; survey of recipients and providers currently underway.	No – work being delivered via Direct Payment Forum and a selection of follow-up interviews.
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Review of how well emergency services (blue light) collaborate	Publication Autumn 2021.	Fieldwork until end of July.	No.

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Denbighshire County Council
<b>Follow-up on People Sleeping Rough</b>	Review of how local authorities responded to the needs of people sleeping rough during the pandemic following up on the AGWs report of July 2020	TBC	Project set up.	No – work being delivered via Homelessness and Supporting People Forum.
<b>Poverty</b>	Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty	TBC	Project set up.	TBC
<b>Social Enterprises</b>	Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	TBC	Project set up.	TBC
<b>Community Resilience</b>	Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities	TBC	Project set up.	TBC

## Estyn

Estyn planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Local Government Education Services Inspections	Estyn has worked closely with Directors of Education to review their inspection guidance for local government education services to reflect the experiences of the pandemic. The updated guidance (published on 1 July) will be piloted on the first inspection and feedback will be sought on whether any further refinements need to be made.	LGES inspections to resume from late Autumn term.	N/A
Curriculum Reform thematic review	Regional consortia and local authority support for curriculum reform.	Evidence collecting in September/October – publish in early February.	N/A

## Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
<b>Assurance</b>	CIW will be completing its work on Assurance Checks including publication of a national overview report.	July – September 2021	In progress.
<b>National review</b>	Support for disabled children and their families.	TBC	In progress – drafting report.
<b>Follow-up</b>	CIW will be following up on areas for improvement identified in the Assurance Checks or through risk-based inspection activity with individual local authorities where necessary.	TBC	Not yet started.

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Inspection	Risk-based inspection activity will continue where required.	TBC	No inspections are scheduled at this time.

## Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published since 1 April 2021

Report title	Publication date and link to report
NHS finances data-tool 2020-21	<a href="#">June 2021</a>
Rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Wales	<a href="#">June 2021</a>
Quality governance arrangements at Cwm Taf UHB – follow-up	<a href="#">May 2021</a>
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee governance arrangements	<a href="#">May 2021</a>
At your Discretion – Local Government Discretionary Services	<a href="#">April 2021</a>
Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic	<a href="#">April 2021</a>

## Audit Wales national reports and other outputs due to be published during 2021-22 (and other work in progress/planned)<sup>1</sup>

Title	Anticipated publication date
<b>NHS waiting times data-tool</b>	July 2021
<b>Supporting NHS staff wellbeing</b>	August 2021
<b>Administration of student finance</b>	August 2021
<b>Care home commissioning</b>	August 2021
<b>Picture of Public Services</b>	September 2021
<b>Warm Homes Programme</b>	September 2021
<b>Welsh Government accounts commentary</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Welsh Government workforce</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Orthopaedic services</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Unscheduled care</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Collaborative arrangements for managing local public health resources</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Welsh Government setting of well-being objectives</b>	Autumn 2021

<sup>1</sup> We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. This includes maintaining some flexibility so that we can respond to developments in Welsh Government policy and areas of possible interest for a new Public Accounts Committee following the Senedd elections.

Title	Anticipated publication date
Curriculum reform	Winter 2021
COVID response and recovery/ Welsh Government grants management	TBC
Equality impact assessment	TBC
Climate change – baseline review	TBC
NHS structured assessment 2021 summary commentary	TBC
Affordable housing	TBC
Broadband infrastructure	TBC
Flood risk management	TBC

## Forthcoming Good Practice Exchange events and publications

Title	Anticipated publication/event date
Town Centre Regeneration	2 September 2021
The Good Practice Exchange Team is currently in the process of finalising the programme of events for the remainder of 2021-22. Once finalised, our key contacts across local authorities will be notified and details of those events and how to register will be available on our website. Please keep a look out for an email update over the coming weeks.	N/A