

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Monmouthshire County Council

Quarterly Update: 30 June 2021

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2020-21 statement of accounts	Statutory audit of the Council's annual statement of accounts.	Audit currently scheduled for July to October 2021 (with draft accounts expected by mid-July).	Ongoing.
Audit of the Monmouthshire County Council Welsh Church Act Fund's 2020-21 accounts	External audit of the Fund's annual accounts.	Audit currently scheduled for October to December 2021.	Not yet started.
Independent examination of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund's 2020-21 accounts	External independent examination of the Fund's annual accounts.	Independent examination currently scheduled for October to December 2021.	Not yet started.
Certification of Grants Claims and Returns	Certify each claim according to Certifying Instructions agreed with the awarding body.	October to December 2021.	Not yet started.

Performance Audit work

2019-20 Performance Audit Work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Waste and recycling service procurement review	This review considers whether the Council has a sustainable plan to manage its waste and whether the Council is building in all relevant and reasonable considerations into its procurement arrangements to ensure that its waste and recycling contracts contribute to a sustainable service.	Summary of findings to be issued Summer 2021.	Ongoing.
Shared Resource Service (SRS) collaboration follow-on review	This review will seek to identify ways to strengthen the SRS collaboration to ensure it is sustainably delivering an effective, efficient and economic provision within this dynamic environment, for now and for the future, for its partners both individually and collectively.	Summary of findings to be issued to SRS partners Summer 2021.	Fieldwork completed.

2020-21 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Financial Sustainability	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.	Final report to be issued July 2021. National Summary Report due to be published August 2021.	Draft report going through clearance.
Homelessness	This review will consider how the Council has responded to increased demand for its homelessness services over the past year and its plans to develop	Planned for Summer and Autumn of 2021.	Project scoping

a sustainable and effective model for the future.

2021-22 Performance audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
<p>Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) examinations</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>As and when the Council decides to reset its wellbeing objectives, we are also obliged to review how the Council has applied the sustainable development principle in doing so.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Improvement reporting audit</p>	<p>Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.</p>	<p>October-November 2021</p>	<p>Not yet started.</p>
<p>Assurance and Risk Assessment</p>	<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 Monmouthshire County Council, the project is likely to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial position; • self-assessment arrangements; • recovery planning; • implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act, and • carbon reduction plans. 	<p>June 2021-April 2022</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future	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
Local risk-based projects	Options for local risk-based work were presented to Council SLT in early 2021. The 2021-22 Audit plan included this work as TBC and we agreed with officers that we would conclude our local risk-based projects still in progress from previous years before agreeing the scope of any new projects.	TBC	Not yet commenced

Local government national studies planned / in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Monmouthshire County Council
Town Centre Regeneration	Review of how local authorities and their partners are addressing town centre regeneration	Publication September 2020	Drafting	N/A
Direct Payments	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

Emergency Services	Review of how well emergency services (blue light) collaborate	Publication Autumn 2021	Fieldwork until end of July	No
Follow up on People Sleeping Rough	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
Poverty	Understanding how local authorities ensure they deliver their services to minimise or reduce poverty.	TBC	Project set up	TBC
Social Enterprises	Review of how local authorities are supporting and utilising social enterprises to deliver services	TBC	Project set up	TBC
Community Resilience	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 have 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 Sept/Oct - publish in early February	N/A

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

CIW planned work 2021-22	Scope	Timetable	Status
Assurance	CIW will be completing its work on Assurance Checks including publication of a national overview report.	July – September 2021	In progress

National review	Support for disabled children and their families.	tbc	In progress - Drafting report
Follow-up	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
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	June 2021
Rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Wales	June 2021
Quality governance arrangements at Cwm Taf UHB – follow up	May 2021
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee governance arrangements	May 2021
At your Discretion - Local Government Discretionary Services	April 2021
Procuring and Supplying PPE for the COVID-19 Pandemic	April 2021

Audit Wales National reports and other outputs due to be published during 2021-22 (and other work in progress/planned)¹

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

¹ 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.

Curriculum reform	Winter 2021
COVID response & 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	September 2 nd 2021
The Good Practice Exchange Team are currently in the process of finalising the programme of events for the remainder of 2021/ 2022. 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