

REPORT TO:	Audit Committee
REPORT NO:	HF/20/19
DATE:	28 February 2019
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Finance
CONTACT OFFICER:	Katy Owen (Tel: 292264)
SUBJECT:	Wales Audit Office National Reports
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Audit Committee on the national performance reports published by the Wales Audit Office.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Auditor General for Wales is the statutory external auditor of most of the Welsh public sector. He audits the accounts of county and county borough councils, police, fire and rescue authorities, national parks and community councils, as well as the Welsh Government, it's sponsored and related public bodies, the Assembly Commission and National Health Service bodies.
- 2.2 The Auditor General's role includes examining how public bodies manage and spend public money, including how they achieve value in the delivery of public services. He reports every year on how well individual local authorities are planning for improvement.
- 2.3 The Auditor General also produces national reports which report on the sector as a whole. Where fieldwork has taken place within Wrexham County Borough Council to support the development of a national report, a specific local commentary will be included in the council's Annual Improvement Report.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Audit Committee notes the national reports published by the Wales Audit Office and the response made by the Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Valedictory reflections - letter to Public Accounts Committee
27 Jun 2018

Valedictory reflections and observations on Huw Vaughan Thomas' eight year term of office and his personal perspective on the challenges, risks and opportunities facing all those who strive to improve the governance, scrutiny and delivery of public services in Wales

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/valedictory-letter-2018-english.pdf>

Guide to Welsh Public Finances
16 Jul 2018

Sources of funding for public services in Wales; Processes for making budget decisions across the main devolved public bodies in Wales; Key frameworks for measuring and reporting the impacts of public spending.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/guide-to-welsh-public-finance-english.pdf>

Local Government services to rural communities
13 Nov 2018

This report examines the changing face of rural Wales and looks at the demographic challenges in providing council services to dispersed communities.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/LG-services-to-rural-communities-report-english.pdf>

Provision of Local Government Services to Rural Communities: Community Asset Transfer
13 Nov 2018

This document complements the above report and highlights and summarises the study findings specifically relating to Community Asset Transfers.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/community-asset-transfer-document-english.pdf>

Waste Management in Wales: Municipal Recycling
15 Nov 2018

More collaboration has helped make recycling methods more consistent and encouraged participation, although waste management service costs show surprising variation.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/Municipal-Recycling-eng.pdf>

The maturity of local government in use of data
6 Dec 2018

This study assesses whether local government has the right building blocks and culture in place to capitalise on the data that it holds.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/Maturity-of-local-government-in-use-of-data-ENG.pdf>

Internal Audit Arrangements at Town and Community Councils in Wales
17 Jan 2019

Over the past ten years there have been several cases of community councils suffering losses to the public purse due to significant failures in financial management and governance. In some instances, this has been due to fraud and theft.

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/internal-audit-arrangements-at-town-and-community-councils-in-wales.pdf>

Financial Management and Governance – Town and Community Councils 2017/18
15 Jan 2019

This report concluded that a significant number of councils fail to comply with their statutory responsibilities for preparing their accounts

<https://www.audit.wales/publication/financial-management-and-governance-town-and-community-councils-2017-18>

Preparations in Wales for a “no deal” Brexit
19 Feb 2019

Given that 29 March is getting ever closer and the window for acting is narrowing, the Auditor General for Wales sets out his early views on the evidence that has been gathered, together with some key messages for public bodies, to help with their planning in the coming weeks and months.

<https://www.audit.wales/publication/preparations-wales-no-deal-brexite>