

Report

Governance and Audit Committee

Part 1

Date: 27 July 2023

Subject **Audit Wales and Regulatory Bodies Published Reports 2022/23 between December 2022 and March 2023.**

Purpose To present an update on Audit Wales and Regulatory (Care Inspectorate Wales / Estyn) bodies reports / inspections completed between December 2022 and March 2023 along with the Council's response.

Author Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Ward All

Summary The Governance and Audit Committee is required under its terms of reference to receive and consider inspection reports from external regulators and inspectors and to make recommendations and, where necessary, monitor implementation and compliance with agreed action plans.

There are three external regulators: Audit Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales, and Estyn. Each body is responsible for providing assurance that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties and providing value to the public. This report covers the regulatory reports / inspections completed by each body between December 2022 and March 2023 including a summary of the Council's response (where applicable) and any additional actions which the Council is undertaking to respond to the recommendations.

Proposal The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider the contents of this report of the regulatory activity completed and where recommendations have been raised the Council is taking necessary action.

Action by Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team

Signed

Background

In [May 2021](#), the terms of reference for the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC) was updated to align with the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021. One of the functions outlined in the terms of reference of the Committee is:

To receive and consider inspection reports from external regulators and inspectors and to make recommendations and, where necessary, monitor implementation and compliance with agreed action plans.

In June 2021, the Auditor General also requested all Council's Governance and Audit Committees to formally consider all reports of external review bodies – principally: Audit Wales (AW), Estyn, and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

All reports received by the Council are considered by the relevant Directors and Heads of Service impacted by the report. All reports are shared with relevant Cabinet Member(s). Where recommendations are raised for the Council to consider / action, the relevant service area(s) are required to confirm their response (if applicable). These may already be actions identified in their service plans, risk mitigation response, programmes / projects being delivered by the service area or bespoke actions. Where service areas are not able to implement the recommendations e.g. resources, prioritisation etc, they are asked to provide an explanation to support their decision.

This report provides an overview of the reports that have been published by the three regulatory bodies between December 2022 and March 2023. Where recommendations have been highlighted, service area(s) response to these recommendations and action(s). The report also provides an update on actions reported in the previous report.

Audit Wales (Appendix 1)

Audit Wales (AW) is the statutory external auditor of most of the Welsh public sector and its role is to examine how public bodies manage and spend public money including achieving value in the delivery of their services. Reports produced by AW cover either national (thematic) areas or local studies of the public body.

For the period covered in this report, AW have published three reports: 3 national (thematic) reports. Each of these reports and the Council's response is outlined in Appendix one of this report where recommendations have been raised for local authorities to consider and if applicable implement necessary actions.

Additionally, we have also provided updates, where applicable on progress against other Audit Wales reports. These were originally reported to the Governance & Audit Committee in January 2023.

Care Inspectorate Wales

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) are the independent regulator of social care and childcare in Wales. CIW are responsible for registering, inspecting and taking action to improve the quality and safety of regulated services and local authority social services. CIW also undertake national (thematic) reviews of social care services and inspect social care and childcare services across local authority areas.

CIW publish the majority of inspection reports on their website but does not publicly report on children's homes, secure accommodation and residential family services to protect the privacy of children and people using that service. Newport City Council is responsible for 11 services (4 adults and 7 children's) in Newport. All inspection reports including the action plans for improvement are reported to the Social Services Directorate Management Team, Executive

Board and shared with Social Services Cabinet Members. Progress updates are also reported through these mechanisms throughout the year. An overview of inspections completed in 2022/23 is provided in Appendix 2 of this report.

In the period covered in this report, no national or local studies have been reported by Care Inspectorate Wales which specifically refer to Newport City Council.

Estyn (Appendix 2)

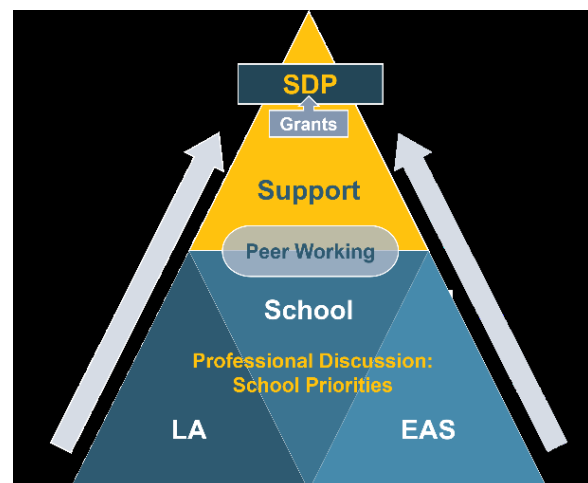
Estyn is the independent inspection and advice service on quality and standards in education and training provided in Wales. Estyn inspect quality and standards including all schools, further education, adult community learning, local government education services, teacher education and training, Welsh for adults, work-based learning, and others. Below is an overview of how Newport Council, the Regional School Improvement Partners (EAS) and schools collaborate to monitor and implement recommendations and actions from Estyn Thematic, local and School inspection reports.

Appendix 2 of this report provides an overview of Estyn activity completed in 2022/23 with one national (thematic) review and four school inspections. Links are available for further information.

Estyn / Newport Council School Inspection and Assurance Overview.

Newport Council's Education Service works in partnership with its School Improvement Partners [Education Achievement Service \(EAS\)](#), Gwent Regional group) to ensure that schools in Newport have the bespoke support they require to meet the recommendations in Estyn inspection reports and to monitor their progress against the recommendations.

This is achieved through the Regional Approach to School Improvement (see diagram to the right). To support the process the Council's Education Service alongside the school and EAS collaborate to monitor and assure that recommendations and actions are delivered to improve performance.



The following activities are undertaken:

- **School Development Planning (SDP) Professional Discussion** – Annual professional discussion with the school leaders, Chair of Governors to assess performance, progress against their priorities, Estyn, Internal Audit recommendations.
- **Termly Supported Self-Evaluation** – Quality assure areas of strength and development including self-evaluation against any Estyn recommendations.
- **Team Around the School Meeting (identified school)** - Collaborative meetings between a school, the LA and EAS which are held on a 4-6 weekly cycle, for schools identified as requiring targeted, intensive support and are focussed on the forensic needs of the school.
- **Multi-Agency Meetings (secondary schools in Special Measures)** - These meetings are held on a termly basis, for secondary schools in the Estyn category of Special Measures. The outcome of these meetings and next steps, are reported and discussed with the EAS through the monthly partnership meeting, with the LA.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Audit Wales reports

Appendix 2 – Summary of Estyn Inspection reports
 Appendix 3 – Audit Wales NCC reports.

Financial Summary

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Recommendations and actions are not implemented by the Council to improve the delivery of services to the public / service users.	M	L	All Regulatory reviews and reports are shared with the relevant Senior Officers and Cabinet Members. Recommendations and Actions are delivered and monitored by the relevant service area(s) with corporate monitoring by People, Policy and Transformation	Corporate Management Team

*Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2022-27
 Climate Change Plan

Options Available and considered.

1. To consider the contents of this report and recommend to Council that the recommendations / actions raised by the regulatory bodies be reported to Governance and Audit Committee in the end of year report with an overview of what the Council has undertaken.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of this report.

Preferred Option and Why

1. Option 1 is the preferred option with recommendations raised by the Audit Committee to be considered and reported to Cabinet and Officers in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no adverse budgetary impacts as a result of this report. Any recommendations made by the regulatory bodies in the reports issued during the first nine months of the financial year will be addressed through existing resources. Where this is not possible, consideration will need to be given to alternative mitigation or the impact will need to be factored into the Council's medium term financial planning. Some of the recommendations make specific reference to financial considerations and these will be reflected, as appropriate and practicably, within key financial plans, such as the annual budget report and Capital Strategy.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report. In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, as amended by the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021, there are a number of statutory functions that the Governance and Audit Committee have to discharge and there are other non-statutory functions that can also be

included within the terms of reference of the Committee. One of the additional functions that the Council has previously delegated to this Committee is the responsibility for receiving and considering inspection reports from external regulators and inspectors, making any necessary recommendations and monitoring implementation and compliance with agreed action plans. This also meets the requirements of the Auditor General in terms of ensuring that all reports from external regulators are reported to the Council and there is a process in place for monitoring compliance. The role of the Governance and Audit Committee is to consider this overview report on the regulatory activity undertaken during the past 6 months period and to satisfy itself that appropriate action has been taken to address the issues identified by the regulators. Responsibility for individual actions, as identified in the responses to the specific regulatory reports, is a matter for the relevant officers and Cabinet Members but the Committee needs to be satisfied that robust procedures are in place to identify and monitor those actions.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Newport City Council has a responsibility for ensuring that its services provide value for money to the taxpayer and that we are fulfilling our statutory duties. This report to the Governance & Audit Committee outlines the regulatory activity completed this financial year to date and will provide necessary assurances that our governance, internal control, and risk management processes are operating effectively. We maintain a strong and ongoing working relationship with the three regulatory bodies and support their work completed throughout each year.

Local issues

None.

Scrutiny Committees

Not applicable as this report will be presented to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

The regulatory activity completed by the three bodies all consider the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in its findings and recommendations for the Council. The Council's response also considers the five ways of working (Long term, Collaboration, Preventative, Involvement, Integration) to deliver improvement.

- **Equality Act 2010**

Not applicable as this is an information only report to the Governance and Audit Committee.

- **Socio-economic Duty**

Not applicable as this is an information only report to the Governance and Audit Committee.

- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

All reports published by the three regulatory bodies are available in Welsh and English.

Consultation

Consulted with Director of Social Services, Head of Children Services and Head of Education Services.

Background Papers

[Audit Wales](#)

[Care Inspectorate Wales](#)

[Estyn](#)

Dated: 20 July 2023

Appendix 1 - Audit Wales Reviews 2022/23

The table below provides an overview of completed Audit Wales between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. Where recommendations have been raised, the Council's response and further actions have been included. Updates have been provided for the end of year report where they were marked as 'In Progress' in the Governance and Audit Committee report from January 2023.

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
Local Report - NCC Annual Audit Summary 2022 March 2023	For information report. Audit Wales summary providing an overview of their work completed since January 2022. No recommendations were raised in this report.	Leader of Newport City Council Senior Officers.	No recommendations raised.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
National Report - Digital Inclusion in Wales March 2023	For information report. Audit Wales high-level overview of digital inclusion in Wales. Report examined the data and information surrounding access to digital services and internet across Wales. No Recommendations were raised in this report.	<u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> Councillor Dimitri Batrouni - Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation. <u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u> Transformation & Corporate / People, Policy & Transformation	No Recommendations raised.	<u>For Information</u> Newport City Council's Digital Strategy was approved by Cabinet in April 2023. The Strategy supports the findings in the report, with actions to improve digital access to services in the Council.	Not applicable
Three National Themed Reports – Alleviating and Tackling Poverty. National Report – Poverty in Wales 'Time for Change' November 2022 National Report – Social Enterprises 'A Missed Opportunity' December 2022 Together We Can – Community	In 2022/23 Audit Wales published three reports looking at how local government is alleviating and tackling poverty. The first report 'Time for Change' examined impact of poverty across Wales and the response of national / local government. Six recommendations raised for local authorities to consider. The second report examined how local authorities are working to grow and expand social enterprises to help	<u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> Councillor Deb Harvey - Cabinet Member for Community Well-being. <u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u> Social Services / Prevention and Inclusion. Environment & Sustainability / Housing & Communities. Supporting: Education Services and People, Policy & Transformation.	There were 11 recommendations raised in total for local authorities to consider. Summary of the recommendations are: 1. Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty. 2. Leadership on the poverty agenda. 3. Experience mapping to create inclusive services for people in poverty. 4. Web Landing page for people seeking help. 5. Streamlining and improving application and information services for people in poverty	<u>In Progress / Update Position</u> Newport Council has completed 4 out of 11 recommendations raised (recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5). Recommendations 3 (Experience mapping) and 5 (application & information services) will be considered as part of a wider review which is being led by Finance service area and is reviewing the Council's customer experience. Additionally, as part of the Council's Transformation work,	Prevention & Inclusion and Housing & Communities service area. December 2023

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
<p>Resilience and Self-Reliance. January 2023</p>	<p>deliver more services and reduce demand. Three recommendations were raised for local authorities to consider.</p> <p>The third and final report examined how local authorities are creating the conditions needed to transform ways of working and empower communities to thrive as independently as possible. Two recommendations have been raised for local authorities to consider.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Complying with the Socio-Economic Duty. 7. Self-evaluation of social enterprises across local authorities and create an action plan. 8. Create. monitor and report progress against the action plan. 9. Integrate the use of social enterprises into Director of Social Services report. 10. Local authorities use the Audit Wales evaluation tool to assess community resilience. 11. Create, monitor and report on an action plan. 	<p>as necessary service areas will consider this area.</p> <p>The 3 reports and its remaining actions were examined by a senior officer working group (see lead service areas). The group examined the recommendations raised considering the Council's and wider regional strategic priorities, and resources.</p> <p>The working group concluded that currently the Council does not have sufficient resource to undertake the self-evaluations recommended by Audit Wales and to then monitor its delivery. It identified that the Council's Corporate Plan, Service Plans and Transformation work are already examining many areas covered through the self-evaluations.</p> <p>Additionally, the group was made aware of several other research work being undertaken locally such as Safer Newport review, Key Cities (UK review) and Regional Public Services Board (Marmot Review) who are also examining the impacts of poverty and cost of living. This work also aligns to the regional Gwent PSB Well-Being Plan which is working to Marmot principles and as such is supported by partner agencies.</p> <p>The Council will be establishing a Cost of Living Steering Group which will consider these report findings, and recommendations to prioritise the Council's approach.</p>	

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
<p>National - Flood Risk Management</p> <p>December 2023</p>	<p>This is a for information report which sets the context on how flood risk management is works in Wales. The focus of the report is on the management of flood risk rather than the emergency response when floods do happen. No Recommendations were raised in this report.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u></p> <p>Cllr Laura Lacey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Assets.</p> <p><u>Directorate / Service Area</u></p> <p>Environment & Sustainability / Infrastructure</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Local Review - Assurance and Risk Assessment Review</p> <p>November 2022</p>	<p>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 its resources. Focused on the following areas of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Position • Local Government & Elections Act 2021 • Carbon Reduction Plan • Newport Intelligence Hub <p>Two Recommendations for NCC consideration.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Member(s)</u></p> <p>Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council</p> <p><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p>Newport City Council Executive Board</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 – Carbon Reduction Planning Arrangements</p> <p>The Council should ensure its proposed actions to reach net zero carbon by 2030 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully costed in terms of their carbon reduction impact to enable them to be evaluated and prioritised. And • Fully reflected in its financial planning. <p>Recommendation 2 – Carbon Reduction monitoring of progress</p> <p>The Council should develop a robust and comprehensive set of metrics that support each planned action to measure, forecast impact and report progress to net zero carbon by 2030.</p>	<p><u>In Progress</u></p> <p>Funding plan currently under development as part of the Climate Programme work. This will not include buildings costs. A buildings assessment is currently underway to fill this gap which should be complete in March 2023 and will also be used to inform the asset rationalisation programme.</p> <p><u>Update:</u></p> <p>A full funding plan is under development as part of our climate change work. The Council will be assessing its funding plan across Climate Change Plan themes and as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning (revenue and capital).</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>Metrics are already defined in the Climate Change Plan. A review of the plan will take place in Q4 2022-23 which will include reviewing and rationalising metrics to ensure they are focused and support the themes,</p>	<p>Environment & Public Protection and Finance Service Areas</p> <p>March 2024</p> <p>Environment & Public Protection</p> <p>March 2023</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
				<p>priorities and actions in the plan and progress to net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Update: From 2023/24, each action has a dedicated performance metric (as far as practicable) to support the Climate Change Plan themes, priorities and actions in the plan.</p>	
<p>National Review – National Fraud Initiative 2020/21</p> <p>October 2022</p>	<p>NFI outcomes in Wales decreased by £1.5 million to £6.5 million in the 2020/21 exercise. Primarily due to fewer ineligible claims for Council Tax Single Persons Discount and Housing Benefit claims detected.</p> <p>While the majority of Welsh NFI participants display a strong commitment to counter fraud, 13 of the 22 Welsh local authorities identified 95% of the fraud and error outcomes achieved by the sector.</p> <p>This suggests that some local authorities have either failed to recognise the importance of the exercise or are unwilling to allocate adequate, skilled counter-fraud resources to investigate the NFI matches.</p> <p>Three recommendations raised by the report.</p>	<p><u>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</u></p> <p>Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council.</p> <p><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p>Transformation and Corporate / Finance</p>	<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>All participants in the NFI exercise should ensure that they maximise the benefits of their participation. They should consider whether it is possible to work more efficiently on the NFI matches by reviewing the guidance section within the NFI secure web application.</p> <p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Where local auditors recommend improving the timeliness and rigour with which NFI matches are reviewed, NFI participants should take appropriate action.</p> <p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>Audit committees, or equivalent, and officers leading the NFI should review the NFI self-appraisal checklist. This will ensure they are fully informed of their organisation's planning and progress in the 2022-23 NFI exercise.</p>	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>Although Internal Audit co-ordinate the NFI on behalf of the Council they have limited resources to review all matches. Some matches are distributed to service areas to review. The Chief Internal Auditor will review the NFI web guidance and ensure all officers allocated matches to check do the same.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>The NFI co-ordinator will work with Heads of Service of officers who have been allocated matches to check to ensure rigorous checking is undertaken on a timely basis.</p> <p><u>In Progress</u></p> <p>The NFI co-ordinator will review the NFI self-appraisal checklist and ensure the Governance and Audit Committee is made aware of the Council's involvement with the 2022/23 NFI exercise.</p> <p>Update: Due to the resources challenge in Internal Audit, we have had to put this on hold pending</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>December 2023</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
<p data-bbox="76 245 356 325">Local Review – Springing Forward Workforce.</p> <p data-bbox="76 357 356 381">October 2022</p>	<p data-bbox="358 245 696 464">How the Council strategically plans for its workforce requirements both now and in the future, how it monitors its workforce and how it reviews and evaluates the effectiveness of its arrangements.</p> <p data-bbox="358 496 696 715">Overall Conclusion – Newport Council has applied the sustainable development principle to develop a clear vision for its workforce that is supported by effective implementation arrangements.</p> <p data-bbox="358 746 696 799">Two Recommendations were raised for NCC consideration.</p>	<p data-bbox="698 245 1070 269"><u>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</u></p> <p data-bbox="698 301 1070 381">Cllr Dimitri Batrouni, Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation</p> <p data-bbox="698 413 1070 466"><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p data-bbox="698 497 1070 550">Transformation and Corporate / People, Policy & Transformation</p>	<p data-bbox="1072 245 1507 298">Recommendation 1 – Sustainable Development Principle</p> <p data-bbox="1072 330 1507 464">The Council should use the sustainable development principle to shape the revision of its People and Culture Strategy, considering longer-term workforce risks and opportunities.</p> <p data-bbox="1072 775 1507 828">Recommendation 2 – Performance Management</p> <p data-bbox="1072 860 1507 994">The Council should benchmark its workforce management information internally and with other organisations to strengthen its understanding of workforce performance.</p>	<p data-bbox="1509 186 1881 239">recruitment exercise and review of the service.</p> <p data-bbox="1509 245 1881 269"><u>In Progress / Update Position</u></p> <p data-bbox="1509 301 1881 603">The People Plan is a core document that supports our Corporate Plan. Following approval of the new Corporate Plan, People Plan development has commenced. Ongoing engagement to shape priorities. Once the themes emerge, Members and the senior team will agree our plan for the next few years.</p> <p data-bbox="1509 635 1881 742">The detailed actions relating to workforce planning are outlined in the Service Plan with a target date of 31st December 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="1509 775 1881 799">Complete</p> <p data-bbox="1509 805 1881 1050">Where data is available to the Council, we are assessing the Council's HR data with other local authorities. Additionally, <u>WLGA (Data Cymru)</u> has launched a dedicated page to compare performance with other local authorities including Human Resources data.</p>	<p data-bbox="1883 245 2166 298">People, Policy & Transformation</p> <p data-bbox="1883 330 2166 354">December 2023</p>
<p data-bbox="76 1078 356 1220">National Review – Equality Impact Assessments ‘More than a tick box exercise’</p> <p data-bbox="76 1252 356 1276">September 2022</p>	<p data-bbox="358 1078 696 1412">Examined the overall approach to undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) across the 44 public bodies in Wales. Audit Wales focused primarily on understanding public bodies' approaches with a view to finding good or interesting practice and identifying any common areas for improvement. We did not</p>	<p data-bbox="698 1078 1070 1102"><u>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</u></p> <p data-bbox="698 1134 1070 1214">Cllr Dimitri Batrouni, Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation</p> <p data-bbox="698 1246 1070 1299"><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p data-bbox="698 1331 1070 1383">Transformation and Corporate / People, Policy & Transformation</p>	<p data-bbox="1072 1078 1507 1158">Recommendation 4 – Reviewing public bodies' current approach for conducting EIAs.</p> <p data-bbox="1072 1190 1507 1437">Public bodies should review their overall approach to EIAs considering the findings of this report and the detailed guidance available from the EHRC and the Practice Hub. We recognise that developments in response to our other recommendations and the Welsh Government's review of the Public</p>	<p data-bbox="1509 1078 1881 1102">Complete</p> <p data-bbox="1509 1109 1881 1358">There is an action in the People, Policy & Transformation service plan to update the Council's Fairness and Equalities Impact assessment and to provide training / support. The team will consider the report findings as part of its review of the Impact Assessment.</p> <p data-bbox="1509 1390 1881 1437">Progress against this action will be reported through the Strategic</p>	<p data-bbox="1883 1078 2166 1131">People, Policy & Transformation</p> <p data-bbox="1883 1163 2166 1187">March 2023</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
	<p>evaluate individual public bodies' approaches in detail.</p> <p>Overall Conclusion – There are examples of good practice in aspects of EIA process across public bodies examined. Many public bodies use guidance from Equality Impact Assessment in Wales Practice Hub. However, there are areas for improvement.</p> <p>Four Recommendations raised for Welsh Government and public bodies to consider.</p> <p>Recommendations 1 to 3 are for Welsh Government consideration. Recommendation 4 is for public bodies consideration.</p>		Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Wales specific regulations may have implications for current guidance in due course.	<p>Equalities Annual Report and Service Plan process.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>The Council has accepted the recommendation and the findings of the report. The Council also has a 'Participation Strategy', which was adopted in May 2022 and outlines the Council's approach to improve participation and involvement in Council activities.</p> <p>In 2023/24 the Council will be developing its new Strategic Equality Plan which will be launched in April 2024. As part of its development the recommendations and findings of the Audit Wales report will be considered and where practicable integrated into the new Plan.</p>	
<p>Local Review – Springing Forward, Strategic Asset Management</p> <p>June 2022</p>	<p>The Audit Review sought to answer the question: Is the Council's strategic approach to its assets effectively helping the Council to strengthen its ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of its services in the short and longer term?</p>	<p>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</p> <p>Cllr Laura Lacey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Assets</p> <p>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</p> <p>Transformation and Corporate / People, Policy & Transformation</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 – Develop longer term planning that is required by the Sustainable Principle</p> <p>The Council should demonstrate longer-term considerations for its property portfolio strategic planning and associated decision-making processes.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Following the pandemic and the introduction of our 'New Normal' working policies and the development of our new Corporate Plan we will review our Strategic Asset Management Plan, and Disposal and Asset transfer strategies. This will be supported by an asset rationalisation programme in our Transformation Plan.</p> <p>The detailed actions relating to asset management are outlined in the People, Policy & Transformation Service Plan 22-24.</p> <p>Update:</p>	<p>People, Policy & Transformation</p> <p>March 2024</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
				<p>The Council has commenced its Asset Rationalisation Programme which is now examining the long term strategy in use of the Council's estate to meet the needs of its citizens and users. In the delivery of this programme, the Council is ensuring evidence based cases are considered to support strategic decision making. The delivery of this work is monitored and reported through the People, Policy & Transformation service plan.</p>	
			<p>Recommendation 2 – Further develop partnership working.</p> <p>Engage with public sector partners across Gwent to realise the potential benefits arising from a strategic approach to a single public estate.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Asset Rationalisation programme in our Transformation Plan will also consider opportunities for collaborating with partners, which maybe within a Gwent or local/Newport context.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>As reported above, the Council is delivering its Assets Rationalisation programme. As identified above, the Council will be considering all viable avenues as part of evidence based cases which its estate have can be effectively used by other partners including public, charity, not for profit and private organisations. The delivery of this work will be monitored and reported through the People, Policy & Transformation service plan.</p>	<p>People, Policy & Transformation</p> <p>March 2024</p>
<p>National Review - Direct Payments for Adult Social Care</p> <p>April 2022</p>	<p>This report looks at how local authorities provide Direct Payments (DP) services to adults, examining their impact and value for money.</p>	<p>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</p> <p>Cllr Jason Hughes and Cllr Stephen Marshall, Cabinet Members for Social Services</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 – Promote and raise awareness of Direct Payments</p> <p>Review public information in discussion with service users and carers to ensure it is clear, concise and</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Public information reviewed on Website and available to all.</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>December 2022</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
	<p>Overall Conclusion - Direct Payments support people's independence and are highly valued by service users and carers, but inconsistencies in the way they are promoted and managed by local authorities mean services are not always equitable and it is difficult to assess overall value for money.</p> <p>Ten recommendations are raised in the report:</p> <p>One recommendation (8) for consideration by Welsh Government and nine recommendations for local authorities to consider.</p>	<p><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p>Social Services / Adult Services</p>	<p>fully explains what they need to know about Direct Payments.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 2 – Promote and raise awareness of Direct Payments</i></p> <p>Undertake additional promotional work to encourage take up of Direct Payments.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 3 – Promote and raise awareness of Direct Payments</i></p> <p>Ensure advocacy services are considered at the first point of contact to provide independent advice on Direct Payments to service users and carers.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 4 – Direct Payments are consistently offered.</i></p> <p>Ensure information about Direct Payments is available at the front door to social care and are included in the initial discussion on the available care options for service users and carers.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 5 – Direct Payments are consistently offered.</i></p>	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>Replacement of staff due to vacancy has been successful and further promotional work with managed care and front door services within adults underway.</p> <p>We will have completed promotional work with all internal service areas in April 2023 and continue ongoing promotion externally.</p> <p><u>Update</u></p> <p>The replacement of staff was successful and we have an additional 2 fulltime staff focussed on improving the DP offer for Newport residents. In total 3 full time officers. Internal promotional work will be an on-going part of the service.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>Advocacy referral is part of the offer when any information or consideration of DP.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>DP workers closely aligned with the front door of Adult services.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>Training available and the DP workers will be attending the</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>April 2023</p> <p>Adult Services</p> <p>January 2023</p> <p>Adult Services</p> <p>November 2022</p> <p>Adult Services</p> <p>April 2023</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
			<p>Provide training to social workers on Direct Payments to ensure they fully understand their potential and feel confident promoting it to service users and carers.</p>	<p>managed care and front door team meetings to ensure clear understanding of what DP can offer and the process for all practitioners.</p> <p>Update Redesign of Adult services ensures the IAA at the front door includes DP. Managed care consider and discuss with person and at review of services, so routinely 3 opportunities to consider and discuss.</p>	
			<p>Recommendation 6 – Sufficient Personal Assistant capacity.</p> <p>Work together (All-Wales local Direct Payments Forum and Social Care Wales) to develop a joint Recruitment and Retention Plan for Personal Assistants.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Regional work across Gwent to ascertain DP priorities will encompass this as a priority for the future of DP take up by citizens with eligible needs.</p> <p>Update A regional Lead in post and will continue to strengthen all aspects of DP.</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>August 2023</p>
			<p>Recommendation 7 – Services provided equitably and fairly.</p> <p>Clarify policy expectations in plain accessible language and set out: What Direct Payments can pay for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How application and assessment processes, timescales and review processes work. • How monitoring individual payments and the paperwork required to verify payments will work. • How unused monies are to be treated and whether they can be banked; and • How to administer and manage pooled budgets. 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Regional work across Gwent to ascertain DP priorities will encompass this as a priority for the future of DP take up by citizens with eligible needs. The regional work will be reviewing all the processes and timescales required for DP. It will also cover all the points in recommendation 7 to ensure a consistent regional approach for all who access care and support through DP.</p> <p>Update Regional lead will work with local DP workers to develop and conclude</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>August 2023</p>

Audit Wales Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Audit Wales Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
			Public information should be reviewed regularly (at least every two years) to ensure they are working effectively and remain relevant.	a strong and consistent service and offer for all.	
			<p>Recommendation 9 – Effectively manage performance to judge impact and value for money.</p> <p>Work together (Welsh Government and local authorities) to establish a system to fully evaluate Direct Payments that captures all elements of the process.</p> <p>– information, promotion, assessing, managing and evaluating impact on wellbeing and independence.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Part of the regional work will be to ensure the effective management of the DP performance is value for money locally and regionally.</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Regional lead will work with local DP workers to develop and conclude a strong and consistent service and offer for all.</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>December 2023</p>
			<p>Recommendation 10 - Effectively manage performance to judge impact and value for money.</p> <p>Annually publish performance information for all elements of Direct Payments to enable a whole system view of delivery and impact to support improvement.</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Local publication of DP is underway and will also be part of the regional work to benchmark and consider any local amendments required to ensure growth and value for money for the public purse and that DP is meeting the care and support needs of citizens.</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Review of Adult Services performance measures being undertaken for 23/24 which will include examining Direct Payments measures,</p>	<p>Adult Services</p> <p>December 2023</p>

Appendix 2 – Care Inspectorate Wales Inspections of Adult and Children service provisions 2022/23

Service Provision	Adult or Childrens	Last Inspection Completed	Further Comments
<u>Frailty Reablement Care</u>	Adult Provision	January 2023	No non-compliance was identified with this service.
Childrens Provision A	Childrens Provision	June 2022	Reports can not be published as per Care Inspectorate Wales requirements.
Childrens Provision B		August 2022	
Childrens Provision C		September 2022	
Childrens Provision D		October 2022	
Childrens Provision E		December 2022	

Appendix 3 - Estyn Thematic Reports and Inspections

The table below provides an overview of Estyn Thematic Reports and a summary of inspections completed of Newport City Council schools between 1st April 2022 and 1st December 2022.

National (Thematic Reviews)

Estyn Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Estyn Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update Position Statement	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
Thematic Review – Effective approaches to assessment that improve teaching and learning. October 2022	<p>This report is written in response to a request for advice from the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language in his remit letter to Estyn for 2021-2022. It focuses on how maintained primary, secondary, all-age and special schools are developing effective approaches to assessment that improve teaching and learning.</p> <p>Six recommendations raised of which four (1 to 4) aimed at schools and two (5 and 6) for Welsh Government, Education Consortia and local authorities to implement.</p>	<p><u>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</u></p> <p>Cllr Deb Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years</p> <p><u>Lead Directorate / Service Area(s)</u></p> <p>Chief Executive / Education Services</p>	<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Develop constructive professional learning opportunities for schools to improve their understanding and use of formative assessment practices.</p>	<p><u>Completed</u></p> <p>These recommendations have been addressed by Newport's Partner School Improvement Service.' The Education Achievement Service, (EAS)'. Actions linked to each of these recommendations are embedded into the EAS Business Plan, 2022-2025, which is agreed by Cabinet and is regularly monitored by The Joint Executive Group and Company Board, of the EAS on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>This work is supported through the Regional School Improvement Model through the work of Learning Network and Professional Learning Schools across the region, Practitioner Networks, Development Groups, and a National, cross regional professional learning offer aligned to the Curriculum for Wales.</p>	<p>Education Service</p> <p>August 2023</p>
			<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>Facilitate and support collaboration across schools to develop leaders' and teachers' understanding of progression and share effective practice in formative assessment.</p>	<p><u>In Progress</u></p> <p>Every school cluster attended a curriculum conversation to provide an update of progress towards Curriculum for Wales and their collaborative work across the cluster. Every school has completed a self-assessment exercise against their current progress and emerging practices. The EAS has targeted support and professional learning, to</p>	<p>Education Service</p> <p>August 2023</p>

Estyn Report / Date Reported	Report Overview	Lead Cabinet Member(s) / Directorate & Service Area	Estyn Recommendation(s)	NCC Action / Update Position Statement	Completion by (Service Area / Date)
				<p>meet the needs of individual schools and clusters. Seven out of the nine Newport Clusters are continuing to engage with the action research programme with Professor Mick Waters on developing a range of approaches to establish an agreed understanding of learner progression, across the cluster.</p> <p>The Curriculum for Wales design networks are supporting the sharing of practice in approaches to curriculum design, progression and assessment. The Local Authority have audited cluster plans and will be providing feedback to each cluster and will be providing guidance, example plans and case studies for sharing across all schools.</p>	

School Inspections

Inspections completed of NCC schools are for information only to the Governance and Audit Committee. Links are provided to view full inspection reports. See Inspection process overview in report.

School Inspected	Date of Inspection	Date Reported
Tredegar Park Primary School	October 2022	December 2022
Jubilee Park Primary School	October 2022	December 2022
Milton Primary School	October 2022	December 2022
High Cross Primary School	October 2022	December 2022
Langstone Primary School	February 2023	March 2023
Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School	January 2023	March 2023
Newport High School	March 2023	April 2023
Monnow Primary School	February 2023	May 2023
Newport Nursery School	March 2023	May 2023