

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026

REFERENCE FROM GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE: 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

**“517 Q2 2025/26 PROGRESS AGAINST EXTERNAL REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS (DCR) –**

The report (and Strategic Insight Board (SIB) Insight Tracker appended to the report) outline the Council's progress to date (October 2025) against all its existing external regulatory recommendations.

At Q2 2025/26, there were currently 19 actions ongoing in the Insight Tracker. Positive progress had been made in responding to the Council's regulatory improvement areas with 95% of actions (18) attributed a Green performance (RAG) status and 5% (1) an Amber status.

Of the 14 actions relating to local regulatory recommendations, 13 had been attributed a Green RAG status, and 1 an Amber status. The action attributed an Amber performance status related to the “Welsh Housing Quality Standard Review including Council Housing Tenants”.

There were currently 5 ongoing actions in the SIB Insight Tracker relating to national regulatory recommendations of which all 5 had been attributed a Green RAG status.

Following consideration by the Strategic Leadership Team, the SIB Regulatory Tracker Q2 2025/26 position was now being reported to Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter, Cabinet for final oversight. The Strategic Insight Board would respond to any comments and recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee and Cabinet following their consideration of Q2 progress.

In line with its remit, Governance and Audit Committee was asked to review the Council's progress to date in addressing the recommendations made by the Council's external regulators as outlined in the Q2 2025/26 SIB Insight Tracker (Appendix 1 to the report) including the removal of completed actions, with their views referred to Cabinet for consideration.

N. Ireland (Vice-Chair) asked for reassurance in relation to the number of actions that were due for completion by the end of March 2026. In reply, the Operational Manager - Corporate Strategy and Insight advised that information was gathered quarterly with officers from relevant service areas providing updates on progress. As the end of Quarter 3 was approaching, service areas would be requested to provide clarity if any of the actions were unlikely to meet the required completion dates and the report updated accordingly for the next quarterly update.

There being no further queries or comments, the Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Council's progress to date in addressing existing recommendations made by its external regulators as outlined in the appended Strategic Insight Board Insight Trackers for the period Q2 2025/26, be noted.
- (2) T H AT the views and recommendations of the Governance and Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet (including endorsing the removal of completed actions from the Strategic Insight Board Insight Tracker).

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Governance and Audit Committee:  
15<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

Meeting of:	<b>Governance and Audit Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 15 December 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Q2 2025/26 progress against external regulatory recommendations.
Purpose of Report:	To present Q2 2025/26 to date in addressing existing recommendations from our external regulators and to seek the removal of completed actions covering the period April 2025 to October 2025 from the SIB regulatory tracker.
Report Owner:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Responsible Officer:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	All Members via previous Scrutiny Committee arrangements and the new Joint Scrutiny Committee for Performance and Cabinet consider performance monitoring reports which incorporate progress against key external regulatory recommendations. The Strategic Insight Board (SIB) via its quarterly monitored Insight Tracker provides the Strategic Leadership Team with regular updates on progress with external regulatory actions. Governance and Audit Committee has regular oversight of progress with external regulatory recommendations throughout the year.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report (and Strategic Insight Board (SIB) Insight Tracker appended to this report) outline our progress to date (October 2025) against all our existing external regulatory recommendations.</li> <li>At Q2 2025/26, there are currently 19 actions on-going in the Insight Tracker. Positive progress has been made in responding to our regulatory improvement areas with 95% of actions (18) attributed a Green performance (RAG) status and 5% (1) an Amber status.</li> <li>Of the 14 actions relating to <b>local</b> regulatory recommendations, 13 have been attributed a Green RAG status, and 1 an Amber status. The action attributed an Amber performance status relates to the 'Welsh Housing Quality Standard review including Council housing tenants.'</li> </ul>	

- There are currently 5 on-going actions in the SIB Insight Tracker relating to **national** regulatory recommendations of which all 5 have been attributed a Green RAG status.
- Following consideration by the Strategic Leadership Team, the SIB Regulatory Tracker Q2 2025/26 position is now being reported to Governance & Audit Committee and thereafter, Cabinet for final oversight. The Strategic Insight Board will respond to any comments and recommendations from the Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet following their consideration of Q2 progress.
- In line with its remit, Governance & Audit Committee is asked to review the Council's progress to date in addressing the recommendations made by our external regulators as outlined in the Q2 2025/26 SIB Insight Tracker (**Appendix 1 to this report**) including the removal of completed actions, with their views referred to Cabinet for consideration.

## Recommendations

1. That Governance & Audit Committee review the Council's progress to date in addressing existing recommendations made by our external regulators as outlined in the appended Strategic Insight Board Insight Trackers for the period Q2 2025/26.
2. That Governance & Audit Committee refer any views and recommendations to Cabinet (including endorsing the removal of completed actions from the Strategic Insight Board Insight Tracker).

## Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure the Council implements its regulatory recommendations and responds appropriately to the recommendations identified through the Audit Wales' programme of local reviews and national Local Government Studies.
2. To ensure that the Council's Strategic Insight Board Insight Tracker reflects the Council's most up to date position on its regulatory recommendations.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the on-going audit work by the Council's regulators, a series of recommendations are made as a result of audit studies (locally and nationally). The Council is required to ensure that these improvement areas are appropriately progressed, and the results reported.
- 1.2 The SIB Insight Tracker (**appendix 1 to this report**) contains the most up to date record of all our regulatory recommendations and outlines progress to date against these. This is updated all year round to reflect the audit work programme, including all local reviews and national Local Government Studies to ensure actions are completed, reported and closed down in a timely manner.
- 1.3 The Insight Tracker also provides a snapshot of overall progress across the Council, a progress snapshot by Directorate, and identifies completed actions to be removed from the tracker as well as remedial actions to address areas where limited progress has been made.
- 1.4 This approach ensures progress remains under review enabling us to provide our regulators with an up-to-date position on all our related work in line with our statutory duties.
- 1.5 The Governance & Audit Committee has a key role in maintaining oversight of the Council's response to issues raised by our external regulators and receive progress updates against all regulatory recommendations when initially received, and via a mid-year update report which is then supplemented with an annual review of progress as part of the Council's Annual Self-Assessment.

## 2. Key Issues for Consideration




### Q2 SIB Insight Tracker 2025/26




- 2.1** The SIB Insight Tracker: Q2, 2025/26 (**Appendix 1 to this report**) outlines our progress against existing regulatory recommendations in response to local reviews and national Local Government Studies and audit work undertaken to date.
- 2.2** In line with corporate performance management arrangements, consideration is given by relevant council services to the findings contained within both local and national reports as they are published, and actions have been incorporated within the Council's SIB Insight Tracker throughout the year as appropriate. These actions are monitored quarterly by the Strategic Insight Board, Strategic Leadership Team and reported to Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet as work to address them progresses. Progress is also monitored by Audit Wales colleagues throughout the year as part of the Council's Annual Regulatory Plan.
- 2.3** At Q2 2025/26, positive progress has been made in responding to our regulatory improvement areas. Of the 19 actions on-going in the SIB Insight Tracker, 95% of actions (18) have been attributed a Green performance (RAG) status, and 5% (1) an Amber status.
- 2.4** Of the 14 actions relating to local regulatory recommendations, 93% (13) have been attributed a Green RAG status and 7% (1) action attributed an Amber status. The action attributed an Amber status relates to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard review including Council housing tenants. Recent evaluation has identified an online resource would assist tenants in directly reporting and booking appointments, reducing the need to call 'Call One Vale.' A solution is now being delivered through the Housing software update. Delays early in the implementation phase mean this project has fallen behind the original planned release date, but actions are now in place to deliver the second stage of this project in the quarter 3 of this year. The release of the self-reporting software is therefore likely to be the first quarter of the next financial year.
- 2.5** There are currently 5 on-going actions in the SIB Insight Tracker relating to national regulatory recommendations of which all 5 have been attributed a Green RAG status.
- 2.6** Detailed below is a snapshot of overall progress to date against our 19 ongoing regulatory improvement priorities. This reflects the priority ratings <sup>1</sup>assigned to

---

<sup>1</sup> The priority ratings of High, Medium or Low (as described in the appended Strategic Board Insight Tracker) are based on assessment of the risks that the recommendations pose to the Council. For example, assigning a priority rating of 'High' requires immediate management response/action to mitigate or reduce the level of risk exposure (political and legislative, resources, service delivery & well-being and reputational) to the Council. Identified management response/actions should be implemented as soon as possible and within 1 year of agreeing the recommendation(s). 'Medium' priority rated recommendations require a management response/ action to be implemented within the short term (1-2 years), while recommendations assigned a 'Low' priority require a response within 1-3 years.

the Council's response to all external regulatory audit recommendations (national and local) in order to assist in their implementation and progress monitoring.

National			
RAG status	Regulatory Audit Action Priority		
	H	M	L
	2	3	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
5			

Local			
RAG status	Regulatory Audit Action Priority		
	H	M	L
	8	5	0
	0	0	1
	0	0	0
14			

- 2.7** Of the 14 local regulatory actions, 8 have been assigned a high priority rating with all 8 attributed a Green RAG status. Of the 5 medium priority rated local regulatory actions, all 5 have been attributed a Green RAG status. There is 1 low priority rated local regulatory action which has been attributed an Amber RAG status. (Welsh Housing Quality Standard review including Council housing tenants).
- 2.8** Of the 5 national regulatory actions, 2 actions are rated high priority and have been attributed a Green status, all 3 medium priority rated national regulatory actions have been attributed a Green RAG status. There are no national regulatory actions attributed a low priority status.
- 2.9** Following consideration by the Strategic Leadership Team, the SIB Regulatory Tracker Q2 2025/26 position is now being reported to Governance & Audit Committee and thereafter, Cabinet for final oversight. The Strategic Insight Board will respond to any comments and recommendations from the Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet following their consideration of Q2 progress.
- 2.10** In line with its remit, Governance & Audit Committee is asked to review the Council's progress to date in addressing the recommendations made by our external regulators as outlined in the Q2 2025/26 SIB Insight Tracker (Appendix 1) including the removal of completed actions, with their views referred to Cabinet for consideration.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Performance Management is an intrinsic part of corporate governance and integrated business planning which underpins the delivery of the Council's Well-being Objectives and associated commitments in its Corporate Plan and the

Annual Statement. The Council's Annual Performance Calendar is our key means of demonstrating how we are meeting the new performance requirements whilst contributing to the national well-being goals.

- 3.2** External Regulation is an important vehicle for driving continuous improvement across our services. Progressing the improvement areas identified by our regulators not only enables us to demonstrate our commitment to continuous service improvement but also contributes to further strengthening our impact on the national well-being goals through the achievement of our well-being objectives.
- 3.3** The areas of improvement identified by our external regulators and the associated action plans produced by officers have been developed with the five ways of working in mind. The focus of these is on developing innovative ways of working that better integrate services, whilst enabling us to work more collaboratively with our partners and citizens to involve them in improving service delivery. These improvement actions also focus on preventative actions that will enable us to sustain and future proof our services into the longer term.
- 3.4** All external regulatory recommendations are reflected in the Council's Strategic Insight Board Insight tracker and progress monitored regularly to ensure they are addressed.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** Our Corporate Plan and associated enabling strategies all have regard to the effects of climate change and nature implications and inform decisions around resource use that help to mitigate climate change and nature implications in the use of those resources.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** There are no additional budgetary implications directly arising from this report, although failure to progress the improvement areas outlined in the report could have a negative impact on any future external regulatory assessments of the Council which could in turn put funding opportunities at risk.

### **Employment**

- 5.2** There are no direct workforce related implications associated with this report. However, there are a number of issues contained within the report that if not effectively managed have the potential to impact on our staff establishment and



performance overall. This may in turn impact adversely on progressing our improvement areas and achievement of our well-being Objectives.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**










- 5.3** There are no implications directly arising from this report, although failure to progress the relevant improvement areas outlined in the report could have a negative impact on any future external regulatory assessments and could result in a special inspection by the Auditor General for Wales if deemed that the Council is not meeting the performance requirements as a result.
- 5.4** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG) and the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LG&E) require the Council to publish annual Well-being Objectives, keep performance under review and consult and report on our performance through an annual self-assessment relating to the previous financial year.
- 5.5** The Auditor General for Wales is statutorily required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to examine public bodies to assess the extent to which they have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives and taking steps to meet them.
- 5.6** Under the LG&E Act, a special inspection of the Council may be undertaken if the Auditor General for Wales considers that the Council is not, or may not be meeting, the performance requirements. This inspection is to assess the extent to which the Council is meeting the performance requirements, in exercising its functions effectively; using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively; and in ensuring its governance is effective for securing the above.

## **6. Background Papers**







[Q2 2025/26 SIB Insight Tracker](#)

## Quarter 2 (1st April 2025 - 30th September 2025) 2025/26 SIB Insight Tracker Progress Snapshot

Snapshot of progress at Q2 against our ongoing regulatory improvement areas

National Recs/ PFIs	RAG status	Local Recs/ PFIs	RAG status	All Regulatory Recs/ PFIs	RAG status
5		13		18	
0		1		1	
0		0		0	
5		14		19	

Snapshot of progress at Q2 by Regulatory Audit Action Priority

National				Local			
RAG status	Regulatory Audit Action Priority Action			RAG status	Regulatory Audit Action Priority Action		
	H	M	L		H	M	L
	2	3	0		8	5	0
	0	0	0		0	0	1
	0	0	0		0	0	0
5				14			

Priority	Description
High	Management response/ action is considered imperative to ensure that the Council is not exposed to high risks (Political and Legislative, Resources, Service Delivery & Well-being and Reputational). Action to be implemented as soon as possible (within 1 year).
Medium	Action/ management response is considered necessary to avoid exposure to considerable risks (Political and Legislative, Resources, Service Delivery & Well-being and Reputational). Action to be implemented within the short term (within 1-2 years).
Low	Management response/ action is considered desirable or good practice and would result in enhanced control, good governance and better value for money (Political and Legislative, Resources, Service Delivery & Well-being and Reputational). Action to be implemented within the short to medium term (within 1-3 years).

Local Regulatory Actions											
Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)	Update	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee	Rationale for Revised Target Date	
LR17	Welsh Housing Quality Standard review including Council housing tenants	Andrew Treweek	P1 – The Council should evaluate how effective the process is for tenants to report housing repairs via the Customer Contact Centre (Call One Vale)	L	Evaluation has identified an on-line resource would assist tenant’s in directly reporting and booking appointments, without calling C1V. A solution is being delivered through the Housing software update. Delays in the implementation mean this project has fallen behind the planned release date, but actions are now in place to deliver the stage 2 of this project in the quarter 3 of this financial year. The release of the self-reporting software is therefore likely to be the first quarter of next financial year.	Amber	Mar-26	Oct-25	PC	This is being delivered as part of the wider Housing tenant web portal and is dependent upon a wider project to provide electronic service to our tenants.	
LR45	Application of the sustainable development principle in service areas – Vale of Glamorgan Council	Tom Bowring	The Council should develop its project management toolkit to ensure that those documents help officers to apply the sustainable development principle from the outset.	H	The revised Project Management toolkit is being finalised ready for deployment. As well as artefacts and a Sharepoint site, to support project managers deliver successfully, it provides guides and support to ensure that sustainable principles are considered throughout the design.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC	This work remains ongoing	
LR53	Digital Strategy Review	Nickki Johns	R4: To help the Council monitor the value for money of its digital strategy it should: - identify any savings it is aiming to make from the strategy. - ensure that performance information used to monitor its digital strategy enables it to fully understand the impact of the Council's investment in digital.	H	"We have developed a Digital Pipeline process which focuses on identifying and prioritising projects based on key performance indicators that include customer impact, savings and efficiency gains & contributions to Corporate Plans. We continue to face and explore how to resolve the challenge of how we capture the value of deliverables where our colleagues have used digital capabilities from, as an example, Microsoft 365 tools. The Digital team cannot alone deliver the digitalisation of the organisation and it is important that we facilitate the use of self-service tools which will be delivering business efficiency that we may not be aware of. As an example, a team may start to use Microsoft Forms to capture information quickly and easily, however we will not have visibility. Where we deliver a Digital project, there is a dashboard to identify savings, efficiencies or risk mitigations that we are now able to capture and report against."	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC	This work remains ongoing	
LR66	Use of Performance Information: Service User Perspective and Outcomes Review - Vale of Glamorgan Council	Tom Bowring/ Helen Moses	R2: Outcomes information - The Council should strengthen the information provided to senior leaders to help them evaluate whether the Council is delivering its objectives and intended outcomes.	H	Work has been undertaken to revise the quarterly monitoring reports for managers utilising Power BI. This will be built on to shape the report to Performance Committee and Cabinet for Q2 which will provide updates about actions and measures but also more information about corporate health. Work has also commenced on the approach for Directorate Plans for 26/27 and the next self-assessment taking learning and feedback from the most recent planning and assessment work.	Green	Jan-26	Oct-25	RC		
LR72	Panel Performance Assessment November 2024	Tom Bowring	R1: Planning for Place: The Council would benefit from developing and effectively communicating a narrative that articulates a positive vision for the future, which is relatable to multiple audiences and has a call to action. In doing so it could be a catalyst for change for the Vale of Glamorgan as a County, drawing together partners, stakeholders, the business sector, and communities.	H	Work has continued to discuss Vale 2030 with partners and to focus on where the work of different organisations align. Examples include the Director of Public Health within the Cardiff and Vale UHB presenting at an SLT workshop on prevention. Further work will be undertaken as part of Signalling Change to communicate the vision for the Vale and this aligns to work on placemaking, member briefings and will be further informed by the results of the Let's Talk residents survey. Discussions internally and with partners around the recent report of the Future Generations Commissioner have also provided an opportunity to explore further our commitments in Vale 2030.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC		
LR73	Panel Performance Assessment November 2024	Tom Bowring	R2: Signalling Change: The Council should consider how it signals and amplifies its changing approach both within the organisation and across the Vale.	H	Brilliant Basics launch was a key milestone in the SP plan. This has now been achieved. An on-going comms plan is in place to raise the profile of this internally and help colleagues understand the concepts and ways of working that underpin this. Externally we have continued to look for new ways to put all of our work in the context of Vale 2030.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC		
LR74	Panel Performance Assessment November 2024	Tom Bowring	R3: Building on existing, strong partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recognising the democratic convening role that the Council has in leading partnerships, whilst recognising when to lead and when to support wider partnerships to take the lead in the provision of services.</li><li>Taking the opportunity to create the time and space to strategically assess and review the partnership landscape, strengthening relationships and assessing where resource and energy is best spent for the wider benefit of the place in order to make the biggest difference.</li><li>Working with stakeholders on getting the “brilliant basics” right that reflects the needs of the local community.</li><li>Leverage the collective capacity of the Vale of Glamorgan and continue to build innovative joint working arrangements with neighbouring Councils.</li></ul>	M	Work to map our partnership work is continuing. Work has also been undertaken to develop a Brilliant Basics Charter which will be launched in October. The PSB in September discussed the Future Generations Commissioners Report and in particular the emphasis on prevention work and collaboration. Discussions are also taking place around opportunities for closer working and alignment across the Cardiff and Vale PSBs and the RPB. Opportunities for joint working continue to be explored as part of the Reshaping programme.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC		

Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)	Update	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee	Rationale for Revised Target Date
LR75	Panel Performance Assessment November 2024	Tom Bowring	<p>R4: Governance and using resource effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing and revising the cycle of formal democratic meetings and formal reporting requirements, exploring ways to better engage members in more proactive and cross chamber collaboration – in both formal and informal ways including reviewing the effectiveness of online meetings.</li> <li>Reviewing the balance between the internal corporate demands placed on members and their role as representatives of their constituents to deliver the Council’s vision of place.</li> <li>Using the strong local politics as a force for good, whilst ensuring civility in public life is promoted and kept front and centre to encourage respectful and constructive debate including online and in-person meetings.</li> <li>Enhancing the effectiveness of the Council’s scrutiny arrangements, specifically meetings, by assessing current practices to identify opportunities for improvement to make them more effective.</li> </ul>	M	<p>"In Quarter 2, work has commenced to continue reviewing the Council’s Democratic and Governance arrangements, building upon work previously undertaken, which will continue for the upcoming year.</p> <p>During the quarter, following the agreement of Reshaping Scrutiny (changes to Scrutiny Committee’s size, structures and ways of working, each Committee held their second formal meeting and agreed their forward work programmes, including Task and Finish topics. All Committees have commenced their first round of Task and Finish, with a view for this to be complete in the Winter. Alongside this, the Council has undertaken it’s first joint performance Scrutiny session, reviewing the Council’s Annual Self-Assessment.</p> <p>A range of enabling actions to support these changes were also undertaken, including changes to the way information only items are shared with Members. A revised Recommendations Tracker and supporting guidance for Members and Officers was also developed. The Scrutiny Chair and Vice-Chairs Group was also reconvened with and have started to consider elements such as learning from other Council's, reviewing the Scrutiny changes, reflective practices, and ways of working including meeting arrangements alongside considerations of how best to work with Cabinet. The Scrutiny annual report was also presented to Full Council.</p> <p>Work has also commenced to explore how to diversify voices in decision making, including consideration with Youth Services and Housing colleagues as to how best involve them in this work moving forward. Meetings are promoted via the Council’s social media channels, and work is explored to consider how we can maximise this reach further. The web forms for members of the public to get involved in Scrutiny have also been redesigned for ease based upon user feedback.</p> <p>Alongside reviewing the Scrutiny function, work has been undertaken to review the effectiveness of current communication channels between Officers and Members. A number of workstreams have gone live within Quarter Two, including:  *A re-launch of Member Net, an intranet site to act as a virtual one stop solution for Members to support them in undertaking their role  *Development of a monthly Member’s newsletter highlighting key messages for Members including activity across the Council</p>	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	RC	
LR/55	Estyn Review - Cardiff & Vale Adult Learning in the Community Partnership review	Trevor Baker/Mark Davies	R1 - Evaluate learners’ progression into, through and on from the provision	M	Strategic partnership is meeting in October to discuss. This is an action for all ACL Partnerships in Wales	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	LW	
LR56	Estyn Review - Cardiff & Vale Adult Learning in the Community Partnership review	Trevor Baker/Mark Davies	R2 - Improve the extent to which learners contribute to self-evaluation and the work of the partnership	M	Discussion at National level about a single self evaluation and will again be discussed in Strategic partnership in October.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	LW	
LR57	Estyn Review - Cardiff & Vale Adult Learning in the Community Partnership review	Trevor Baker/Mark Davies	R3 - Explore opportunities to increase provision or access to provision through the medium of Welsh	M	Working in partnership with Learn Welsh the Vale and Menter y Fro, ACL have designed a programme of Welsh medium learning opportunities across GBOT and Vale Courses. A staff survey has identified suitable tutors who can deliver a mixture of leisure, employability and skills for Welsh speakers and learners. Courses will include a menu for parents in Welsh medium schools, courses based in Palmerston Centre on the GBOT programme as well as courses in Cowbridge, Barry and Penarth offered through Vale Courses. A task and finish group, chaired by Mark Davies, and attended by members of the CVCLP partnership has met regularly to discuss Welsh medium provision and piloted some provision in both Cardiff and Barry. This has informed the curriculum offer for the new academic year.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	LW	
LR76	Audit Wales- Arrangements for Commissioning Services	Matt Bowmer	<p>R1 - To enable the Council to assess and report on value for money of commissioned services, it should ensure that:</p> <p>1.1 comprehensive options appraisals are routinely undertaken when commissioning services and these include each option’s full costs and benefits;</p> <p>1.2 commissioning decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are supported by appropriate records;</li> <li>consider short, medium and long-term factors;</li> <li>are informed by the views of those impacted by the commissioned service; and</li> <li>include an assessment of risk</li> </ul> <p>1.3 contract monitoring routinely assesses and monitors value for money .</p>	H	The Audit Wales report has been presented to Governance & Audit Committee. This report has also been presented to SLT and a discussion relating to the recommendations was held, with communications following to all chief officers.	Green	Jun-26	Oct-25	RC	This work remains ongoing
LR77	Audit Wales- Arrangements for Commissioning Services	Matt Bowmer	R2 - To avoid duplication and identify opportunities to secure multiple benefits, the council should take account of its own well-being objectives, partners’ well-being objectives and the national well-being goals when commissioning services.	H	This will be covered in the communications above, and a reminder to all to complete all sections in the Cabinet/Committee templates.	Green	Jun-26	Oct-25	RC	This work remains ongoing
LR78	Audit Wales- Arrangements for Commissioning Services	Matt Bowmer	<p>R3 - To ensure that the Council identifies opportunities to improve value for money and outcomes it should:</p> <p>3.1 routinely and consistently evaluate the effectiveness of its commissioning arrangements across the organisation; and</p> <p>3.2 share learning from commissioning activity across the Council.</p>	H	Commissioning and contract management are included in the 2025/26 Annual Audit Plan and there will be a rolling annual review.	Green	Jul-26	Oct-25	RC	This work remains ongoing



National Regulatory Actions										
Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)	Update	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee	Rationale for Revised target Date
NR7	Local Government Services to Rural Communities	Tom Bowring	R4- To help sustain rural communities, public services need to act differently in the future. We recommend councils do more to develop community resilience and self-help by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- working with relevant bodies such as the Wales Cooperative Centre to support social enterprise and more collaborative business models;</li> <li>- providing tailored community outreach for those who face multiple barriers to accessing public services and work;</li> <li>- enhancing and recognising the role of town and community councils by capitalising on their local knowledge and supporting them to do more;</li> <li>-encouraging a more integrated approach to service delivery in rural areas by establishing pan-public service community hubs, networks of expertise, and clusters of advice and prevention services;</li> <li>- enabling local action by supporting community asset transfer identifying which assets are suitable to transfer, and having the right systems in place to make things happen; and</li> <li>- improving community-based leadership by developing networks of interest, training and coaching, and encouraging volunteering.</li> </ul>	M	Work to progress the social enterprise aspect of this work is continuing with the work underpinned by the Cwmpas commission last year. Services to support people in rural areas who are experiencing poverty are being supported, for example through the Wick Food Farmacy, Llantwit Major More than Food Hub and the outreach into St Athan. More strategic work is commencing regarding the relationship with town councils under Reshaping as well as via the Placemaking Plans which include references to community hubs.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	CP&R	Further work forms part of the PSBs work programme.
NR8	Local Government Services to Rural Communities	Tom Bowring	R1 - Local authorities need to do more to make CATs (Community Asset Transfers) simpler and more appealing, help build the capacity of community and town councils, give them more guidance in raising finance, and look to support other community development models such as social enterprises the support social value and citizen involvement. In addition, we recommend that local authorities monitor and publish CAT numbers and measure the social impact of CATs.	M	The Reshaping Assets Board are proactively looking at priority assets that could be operated by other organisations in the future, including via CAT as well as other arrangements. The Welsh Government inquiry into CATs has concluded and a report is expected in the coming months. In addition, the Future Generations Commissioner's five year report calls for a change in how communities can become involved in assets and a workshop to consider was held in September to consider this recommendation (amongst others from there report) and views are now being collated to inform the Council's consultation response.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	CP&R	This work remains ongoing.
NR9	Local Government Services to Rural Communities	Tom Bowring	R2 - Local authorities have significant scope to provide better and more visible help and support before, during, and after the community asset transfer process. We conclude that there is considerable scope to improve the business planning, preparation, and aftercare for community asset transfer. We recommend that local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify community assets transfer's role in establishing community hubs, networks of expertise and clusters of advice and prevention services;</li> <li>- work with town and community councils to develop their ability to take on more CATs;</li> <li>- identify which assets are suitable to transfer, and clarify what the authority needs to do to enable their transfer;</li> <li>- ensure their CAT policy adequately covers aftercare, long term support, post transfer support, signposting access to finance, and sharing the learning about works well; and</li> <li>- support community-based leadership by developing networks of interest, training and coaching, and encouraging volunteering.</li> </ul>	M	The Reshaping Assets Board are proactively looking at priority assets that could be operated by other organisations in the future, including via CAT as well as other arrangements. The Welsh Government inquiry into CATs has concluded and a report is expected in the coming months. In addition, the Future Generations Commissioner's five year report calls for a change in how communities can become involved in assets and a workshop to consider was held in September to consider this recommendation (amongst others from there report) and views are now being collated to inform the Council's consultation response. SLT have also recently approved the creation of a post to support community groups in the operation of assets in the future, including the CAT process, and recruitment is underway.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	CP&R	This work remains ongoing.
NR28	Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise?	Tom Bowring	Reviewing public bodies' current approach for conducting EIAs - R4 While there are examples of good practice related to distinct stages of the EIA process, all public bodies have lessons to learn about their overall approach. 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 PSED Wales specific regulations may have implications for current guidance in due course.	H	New digital EIA process is now live. It is currently being used for budget EIAs. Some new supporting guidance is now being created and will be published shortly. The new digital form will also soon link to the Let's Talk results dashboard.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	L&C	This work remains ongoing.

Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)	Update	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee	Rationale for Revised target Date
NR33	'Time for Change' – Poverty in Wales	Tom Bowring	R7 Streamlining and improving application and information services for people in poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We recommend that councils: establish corporate data standards and coding that all services use for their core data; undertake an audit to determine what data is held by services and identify any duplicated records and information requests; create a central integrated customer account as a gateway to services; undertake a data audit to provide refresher training to service managers to ensure they know when and what data they can and cannot share; and review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities.</li></ul>	H	This work is being progressed by a cross-directorate group working with Citizens Advice to identify and map the different types of provision being offered by the Council both centrally and via outreach. A recent workshop with council tax has also highlighted opportunities to streamline the sharing of data and exploring the perceived and actual parameters that may limit this, with the potential to remove some barriers. Work is also underway in line with the Welsh Benefits Charter to streamline application processes, building on previous work in this area, and exploring opportunities to make use of cross-departmental data. Some issues have been identified with the use of DWP data and will be progressed in the coming months.	Green	Mar-26	Oct-25	CP&R/ L&C/ H&SC	This work remains ongoing.

Completed Local Regulatory Actions									
Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Update	Priority (H/M/L)	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee
LR79	Audit Wales- Urgent & Emergency Care: Flow out of	Lance Carver/ Jason Bennett	R1 - To help inform discussions around discharge, the local authorities should capture the risks associated with social care	A monthly "check point" data report is submitted to Welsh government which includes a risk rating for both assessment and care capacity.	H	Green - Completed and ongoing	Apr-25	Aug-25	LW
LR80	Audit Wales- Urgent & Emergency Care: Flow out of hospital Cardiff & Vale Region	Lance Carver/ Jason Bennett	R2 - The Health Board, working with local authorities, should update its discharge policy and associated policies, including the choice of accommodation policy, to provide clarity to all	National policy was updated and the UHB have updated their policy accordingly including patient information leaflets and staff information.	H	Green - Completed and ongoing	Apr-25	Aug-25	LW
LR81	Audit Wales- Urgent & Emergency Care: Flow out of hospital Cardiff & Vale Region	Lance Carver/ Jason Bennett	R5 - The Health Board, in partnership with its local authorities, should ensure it has the necessary arrangements in place to embed and deliver a seven-day working week approach to hospital discharge to minimise unnecessary stays in hospital.	The UHB is yet to fully adopt a full system of 7 day working for consultants, Allied Health professionals, and their discharge team. Local Authority arranged care providers and Vale Community Resource Service all provide care 365 days a year . Emergency duty team provide out of hours social work cover. No evidence to suggest increasing social work presence on weekends would increase discharges from hospital at this time. No additional funding or resources to enable this have been made available. Suggest this complete pending review once UHB have embedded the approach	H	Green - Completed and ongoing	Apr-25	Aug-25	LW
LR82	Audit Wales- Urgent & Emergency Care: Flow out of	Lance Carver/ Jason Bennett	R7 -To help inform decision-making and discussions, the Health Board and local authorities should ensure that	Already in place and has been for a long time, in addition all regions have a monthly meeting with Welsh Government to discuss Pathways of Care data.	H	Green - Completed and ongoing	Apr-25	Aug-25	LW

Completed National Regulatory Actions									
Reference	Report	Responsible Officer	Regulatory Recommendation	Update	Priority (H/M/L)	Status	Target Date	Date of Last Update	Scrutiny Committee