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Mr Keith Griffiths  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
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Reference 642A2013  
Date 28 November 2013  
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Dear Keith

## Improvement Assessment

In my letter of 16 October 2013, I gave my opinion on whether Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (the Council) had discharged its statutory duties in respect of improvement planning.

I am also required, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to give an opinion on whether the Council has discharged its duties in respect of improvement reporting and met the requirements of the Measure.

**In my opinion, and based on audit work undertaken to date the Council has discharged its improvement reporting duties under the Measure although there is potential to strengthen its arrangements further**

I have reached this conclusion because:

- the Council published an assessment of its performance during 2012-13 in its *Annual Delivery Report 2012-13* (the Report) before 31 October 2013;
- the Report assesses the Council's performance in the preceding financial year (2012-13) and clearly sets out how the Council has sought to discharge its duties under the Measure;

- the Report details the Council's activity aimed at achieving its improvement objectives and expresses its performance in a fair and balanced way; however, a lack of clarity as to the level of improvement the Council aimed to achieve limits the extent to which the Report evaluates progress;
- the Report and summary have been promoted to citizens although the Report is not primarily aimed at a public audience, and the summary does not set out the necessary information to enable citizens to provide feedback on the Council's performance;
- the Report includes details of performance trends and comparisons as measured by national statutory performance indicators, although there is scope to articulate more clearly what this information means and what the Council has done in light of it; and
- the Report incorporates extensive information on collaboration which is integral to reporting of progress on each improvement priority.

### **Further proposals for improvement**

No proposals for improvement are being suggested in this letter. I will continue to monitor and report on the progress made by the Council in implementing the proposals set out in my previous reports and letters.

I will undertake more detailed work on the arrangements that support the Council's performance management and reporting over the following months and report this, as well as summarising all of my work and that of relevant regulators during 2013-14, in an Annual Improvement Report for the Council that I will publish by the end of March 2014.

Yours sincerely,



**HUW VAUGHAN THOMAS**  
**Auditor General for Wales**

cc: Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business