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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR LLYWODRAETHU AC ARCHWILIO	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
DYDD IAU, 8 MAI 2025 am 2:00 y. p.	THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 at 2.00 pm
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM	COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer

AELODAU / MEMBERS

Cynghorwyr / Councillors:-

PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

Geraint Bebb, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE, Euryrn Morris (*Deputy Chair*),
Margaret M. Roberts

Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Ieuan Williams

LLAFUR CYMRU/WELSH LABOUR

Keith Roberts

ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Kenneth Hughes, Aled Morris Jones (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats)

AELODAU LLEYG / LAY MEMBERS

Dilwyn Evans (*Chair*), William Parry, Sharon Warnes, Michael Wilson

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A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest by any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)

To present the minutes of the previous meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 11 February 2025.

3 GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION LOG (Pages 9 - 12)

To present the report of the Head of Audit and Risk.

4 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE (Pages 13 - 22)

To present the report of the Head of Audit and Risk.

5 OUTSTANDING INTERNAL AUDIT ISSUES, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES (Pages 23 - 34)

To present the report of the Head of Audit and Risk.

6 REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE WITH NEW STANDARDS (Pages 35 - 50)

To present the report of the Head of Audit and Risk.

7 EXTERNAL AUDIT: ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL AUDIT SUMMARY 2024 (Pages 51 - 60)

To present the report of Audit Wales.

8 EXTERNAL AUDIT: AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE Q3 AND Q4 2024/25 UPDATES (Pages 61 - 90)

To present the following Audit Wales reports –

- Work Programme and Timetable Quarter 3 2024/25 Update
- Work Programme and Timetable Quarter 4 2024/25 Update

9 REVIEW OF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26 (Pages 91 - 98)

To present the report of the Head of Audit and Risk.

Please note that the committee's formal meeting will be followed immediately by a private meeting between the committee's members, internal audit and external audit only.

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room and on Zoom on 11 February, 2025

- PRESENT:** Mr Dilwyn Evans (Lay Member) (Chair)
Councillor Euryrn Morris (Deputy Chair)
- Councillors Geraint Bebb, Aled M. Jones, Keith Roberts, Margaret M. Roberts, Ieuan Williams.
- Lay Members: Sharon Warnes, William Parry, Michael Wilson.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Head of Internal Audit & Risk (MP)
Committee Officer (ATH)
Webcasting officer (FT)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Kenneth Hughes.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Robin Williams (Deputy Leader & Portfolio Member for Finance), Alan Hughes (Performance Audit Lead – Audit Wales), Principal Auditor (NW)(IoACC), Senior Auditor (AL) (IoACC), Accountancy Services Manager (BHO) (IoACC)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to Councillor Aled M. Jones who was returning as a member of the committee and to Councillor Kenneth Hughes who could not be present at this meeting but who was a new member of the committee.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 27 November 2024 (extraordinary meeting) and 5 December 2024 were presented and were confirmed as correct.

3. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION LOG

The report of the Head of Audit and Risk incorporating the committee action log was presented for consideration. The report updated the Committee on the status and progress of the actions it had agreed upon.

The Head of Audit and Risk confirmed that one action had been completed, one was in progress and the remaining four actions on the log were due to be completed later in the year.

It was resolved to note the actions detailed in the action log table and to confirm that the Committee is content that the actions have been implemented to its satisfaction.

4. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

The report of the Head of Audit and Risk providing an update as at 31 January, 2025 on the audits completed since the previous update as at 28 November 2024 was presented for the committee's consideration. The report also set out the current workload of Internal Audit and its priorities for the short to medium term going forward. Members of the committee were provided under separate cover with copies of the assurance reports finalised in the period in relation to Housing Development (Reasonable Assurance) and Recruitment and Retention (Reasonable Assurance). A third piece of work completed in the period involved a Property Services related investigation conducted in response to allegations of favouritism with regard to electrical work procurement to which an assurance opinion did not apply.

The Head of Audit and Risk provided an overview of the two assurance reports completed during the period and she confirmed that an action plan had been formulated and agreed to with management to address the issues /risks and opportunities raised in each case. She elaborated on the investigation in relation to Property Services and advised that although the allegations of favouritism were not substantiated opportunities to strengthen fraud risk controls were identified and the findings of the review were reported to the Chief Executive, Portfolio Holder, Head of Service, and the Monitoring Officer. She referred to Internal Audit's short to medium term priorities including work in progress as summarised in the schedule at paragraph 25 of the report along with the priorities for the longer term, and she briefed the committee on the latest position with regard to other developments including the introduction of the new global internal audit standards, CIPFA's new code of practice for the governance of local authority internal audit effective from 1 April 2025 and the update by CIPFA and SOLACE to the guidance for local government on completing a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and production of the Annual Governance Statement.

In considering the report, the following were points of discussion by the committee –

- Whether the feedback to Housing Services from the review of Housing Development included any specific recommendations with regard to arrangements for monitoring value for money.

The committee was advised by the Head of Audit and Risk that the review found with regard to the Right to Buy scheme that although the Council is on track to meet its buy-back goal in terms of the number of properties acquired the absence of a formal financial viability assessment made demonstrating value for money difficult. Additionally, a formal buy-back acquisitions policy would strengthen governance arrangements and clarify the approach to buying back properties including the wider non-financial considerations that are taken into account when considering purchasing former Council owned properties.

- Whether with regard to the review of recruitment and retention and the recruitment challenges faced by the Council in being able to attract suitable candidates, an analysis of the skills gap should be undertaken with a view to colleges targeting those areas where there are skills shortages.

The Head of Audit and Risk advised that the Council does have strong partnerships with local and regional colleges and collaborates with them on programmes and schemes to meet the local skills need including within the Council especially in relation to the care workforce. One of the main issues is a lack of candidates applying for roles within the Council. The Head of Audit and Risk confirmed that the Council conducts exit interviews to gain feedback from staff who are leaving.

It was suggested and agreed by the committee that a piece of work be undertaken to examine the benefits that working collaboratively with local and regional colleges has delivered in terms of enabling the Council to meet its recruitment and skills needs and fill vacancies.

- The extent to which the pay differential between the public and private sectors for similar roles is a barrier to recruitment in local authorities and whether the grading structure in the Council needs to be reviewed to enable the Council to attract the right staff.

The committee was advised that the Council's ability to change its pay levels is limited because local government pay scales are agreed and set nationally in England and Wales by the NJC. The pay scales comprise of different grades and scale points which correspond to a specific salary. Additionally, the nationally agreed Job Evaluation scheme whereby each post is systematically assessed and scored by an external assessor also means that there is limited scope to change pay levels to compete with the private sector.

- With regard to the investigation of a complaint against Property Services, whether as part of the investigation process, a complainant should be required to meet with Officers to provide further information and/or help with inquiries if invited to do so and whether attendance should be a condition of proceeding with the investigation.

The committee was advised that the complainant in this instance had approached and spoken with the Portfolio Member for Highways Waste and Property and that Internal Audit is obliged to investigate if requested to do so by the Portfolio Member and by the Monitoring Officer.

In response to a question whether the Council is planning to respond to the current consultation on the addendum to CIPFA and SOLACE's guidance on reviewing the system of internal control and production of the Annual Governance Statement the Head of Audit and Risk confirmed that the consultation had been forwarded to the Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager who is responsible for compiling the Annual Governance Statement.

It was resolved to note the outcome of Internal Audit's work, the assurance provided and priorities going forward.

Additional action – to request the Council to consider examining the benefits that working collaboratively with local and regional colleges has delivered in terms of enabling the Council to meet its recruitment and skills needs and fill vacancies.

5. COUNTER FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY 2025-2028

The report of the Head of Audit and Risk incorporating the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy for 2025 to 2028 was presented for the committee's consideration. The report set out the activity that Internal Audit will carry out during 2025 to 2028 to minimise the risk of fraud, bribery and corruption occurring within and against the Council.

The Head of Audit and Risk set the context to the strategy highlighting the scale of fraud and corruption in the public and private sectors and the significant cost of fraudulent activity to the public purse which is money that could otherwise be spent on services. She summarised the five pillars of activity/strategic objectives on which the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy is based and on which the Council will concentrate its efforts which are "govern," "acknowledge," "prevent," "pursue" and "protect." These strategic objectives have been used to develop a delivery plan of counter fraud activity as detailed in Appendix 2 to

the report. Progress on delivering the activities in the plan will be provided to the committee annually with the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Annual Report.

In response to a question about the development of a counter fraud working group to help identify fraud risk within the Council, the Head of Audit and Risk confirmed that the group is key to identifying and understanding fraud risk across the Council and the support of the Leadership Team for the establishment of this group will be sought with a view to the group's being set up this year. The Head of Audit and Risk and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer further explained ongoing activity within the Council to counter fraud and highlighted particular success in reducing income lost through Council Tax fraud which is an area into which the Council is keen to put additional resource, funding permitting, as well as the value of the National Fraud Initiative in identifying potential fraud or error in claims and transactions. Responding to a further question about how the Council can obtain a realistic understanding of the income lost, the Section 151 Officer clarified that the only current measure is the additional income secured by the officer within the income and revenues team tasked with identifying Council Tax fraud and anomalies.

It was suggested that implementing AI technology in future to analyse data and detect patterns of fraudulent activity may also be helpful in increasing the Council's effectiveness in countering fraud.

Having reviewed the strategy, the Governance and Audit Committee resolved –

- **To note the activity that will be undertaken during 2025-28 to minimise the risk of fraud.**
- **To confirm that the committee takes assurance that the strategy meets with recommended practice, governance standards and legislation.**

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2024/25

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer providing an update on the treasury management position as at 30 September 2024 was presented for the committee's consideration.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer confirmed that the Council's Treasury Management position has remained stable and that the Council has adhered to the prudential indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25. The Council did not enter into any new external borrowing in the period in order to save on interest payable and it has continued to maintain its strategy of using internal borrowing to fund capital expenditure. However, as cash reserves are utilised, the amount of surplus cash reduces thereby reducing the sums available to invest and the level of internal borrowing that can be supported which means that additional external borrowing is likely to be required in future to fund the capital programme. Investment returns to 30 September 2024 have been positive with estimated interest receivable for the full year on the investments active in the period forecast to be £1.322m. Investment performance for the six months to 30 September 2024 is summarised in Table 4 of the report. The Council's capital position is set out in Table 5 of the report and shows that the capital budget is expected to underspend by £6.550m for the year. Projects that are underspent and the funding which supports them will be carried forward into 2025/26.

In reviewing the report, the committee raised the following matters –

- The reasons why a loan dating back to 1969 is still payable and whether it would be more advantageous to settle the loan.

- The income/savings which the installation of solar panels on Council buildings using Salix loan funding is expected to generate once the loans have been fully repaid.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 15 Officer advised that the Council does take out long-term loans for various reasons including for infrastructure projects such as new schools and the loan from 1969 may have been for such a purpose. While the loans which the Council has taken out are regularly reviewed early settlement of PWLB loans comes with an early repayment charge which can be higher than any saving made. If the Council does not have the surplus cash to pay off the loan, then it would have to borrow to do so which may be at a higher rate than the original loan. He further advised that as part of meeting the qualifying criteria for a Salix loan, projects have to be supported by a business case which shows the expected saving/income to be made over a period of 10 years or less and that the information with regard to the solar panel projects although not immediately to hand, is available.

The Chair also requested that the format of the treasury management reports be amended to correspond with the Governance and Audit Committee report template and that where feasible the supporting appendices be reduced.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer clarified that as the treasury management reports are also submitted subsequently to the Executive, for ease of reporting and because of the timescale the Executive template has been used. Quarterly treasury management update reports are also now produced the review of which has been delegated by the Executive to the Portfolio Member for Finance. The quarterly report has been shortened and could be used as a basis for reporting to this committee. The Section 151 Officer suggested that he forward a copy of the Treasury Management update report for Quarter 1 2024/25 to the Chair to see whether its format better meets the needs of this committee.

It was resolved to note the report, the treasury activity, and the prudential indicators as at 30 September 2024 and to forward the report to the Executive without further comment.

Additional actions –

- **The committee to be provided with information about the income/savings which the installation of solar panels on Council buildings using Salix funding is projected to generate.**
- **To ask the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to forward a copy of the Quarter 1 2024/25 Treasury Management update report to the Chair for a review of its format.**

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2025/26

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer incorporating the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26 was presented for the committee's consideration. The Council is required to produce and publish an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) before the start of each financial year. The TMSS has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Prudential Code and CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

The Director of Function (Resources) provided an overview of the strategy confirming that for 2025/26 the Council proposes to maintain its prudent approach to borrowing making use of internal borrowing where cash balances allow to reduce costs. However, it is envisaged that as reserves continue to be used to fund the revenue budget and the Housing Revenue

Account is used to fund capital expenditure, the Council's cash balances will reduce significantly and an increased level of external borrowing will have to be undertaken to fund the capital programme. If the need to borrow arises the Council will look to do so initially on a short term basis as this is currently more cost effective with interest rates still relatively high and to fill a gap ensuring that the Council does not accumulate too much debt at any one time and that repayment is spread out. The use of reserves as well as internal borrowing means that there is less cash to invest and so a conservative approach will be taken and investments in banks or building societies will only be placed in highly secure banks and building societies with high credit ratings. Loans to local authorities remain an option and will be considered after due diligence checks have been conducted. The Council's investment priorities continue to be security first, portfolio liquidity second followed by yield (return). The Section 151 Officer referred to the proposed Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 10 to the strategy; these define the limits for the Council's treasury management activities during the year to ensure they remain prudent and sustainable.

The committee raised no issues on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26 noting that it represents a continuation of the consistent and prudent approach to treasury management activity of previous years.

Following review, it was resolved to note the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26 and to forward the report to the Executive without further comment.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The reports of Audit Wales regarding the financial sustainability of local government in Wales were presented for the committee's consideration. A national report which assessed the financial sustainability of the councils in Wales collectively was presented along with a local report which focused on the Isle of Anglesey County Council. The Audit Wales review examined the strategies to support councils' long-term financial sustainability, councils' understanding of their financial position and councils' reporting arrangements to support regular oversight of their financial sustainability.

Mr Alan Hughes, Performance Audit Lead for Audit Wales reported on the key messages from the national review which found that there are significant risks to the sustainability of local government finances which are likely to increase over the medium term without action to mitigate them although the pressure on local government funding has affected councils and services differently. The review highlighted the need for councils to develop more robust long term financial plans to address future funding gaps and to ensure financial sustainability and to adopt longer term transformation strategies to deal with the financial challenges they face. The review of the Isle of Anglesey County Council specifically concluded that the Council has good arrangements to respond to financial challenges in the short to medium term but has not formalised the planning and oversight of its longer term financial sustainability. The review recommended that the Council develop a longer term financial strategy that supports its understanding of its future financial position and informs its transformation and prioritisation of services.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that the one year funding settlement provided by Welsh Government as well as rising costs and increasing demand which are difficult to forecast and which are beyond the Council's control means that longer term planning and strategic use of reserves is a challenge. Councils have raised concerns about the timing of the funding settlement as well as the short term nature of the settlement and it is hoped that Welsh Government will respond by providing in future an indication of funding over multiple years rather than for one year at a time to enable the Council to plan for the longer term. The Council has used its reserves to balance the budget for the past two

years as a way of avoiding deep cuts in services that may prove unnecessary if the financial landscape improves whilst also ensuring that it retains sufficient reserves to be able to respond to challenges were the financial situation to deteriorate. The Section 151 Officer confirmed that the Council is developing a longer term financial strategy subject to Welsh Government providing information about the funding outlook for the next few years.

Points of discussion by the committee were as follows –

- The committee acknowledged that planning for the long-term in the current financial climate is challenging for the Council especially given there is no certainty about funding beyond the immediate year. The expectation that the Council develop a longer term funding strategy spanning more than two to three years was felt by members to be unrealistic until or unless Welsh Government can provide assurances regarding future funding and multi-year settlements.
- The committee also acknowledged that despite the challenges, the Council can make some inroads into planning for the long term by exploring different ways of delivering services more cost-effectively, using demographic data to make informed decisions, collaborating with other councils and organisations to share resources and expertise, and using technology to reduce costs.
- The committee recognised the economic and investment opportunities that may arise from the Anglesey Freeport and potential development of Wylfa which could mitigate the financial challenges facing the Council in future.
- The committee sought clarification of how Audit Wales proposes the Council uses its reserves strategically to plan for the longer term in the current circumstances.

Mr Alan Hughes, Audit Wales advised that while reserves can be used to meet a funding shortfall they can also be used to support long-term transformation projects to improve the efficiency and sustainability of services. Within the scope of the review the assessment of the twenty-two councils in Wales showed that councils are at different stages of adapting to the financial challenges they face with some more advanced than others. While it is acknowledged that planning for the long-term is challenging and that it is understandable that councils would want to try to avoid cutting services in the hope of better settlements to come, there are risks in not taking timely action including the depletion of reserves to a critical point. Councils face a difficult balancing act in continuing to provide services at the current level while managing their financial sustainability.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 15 Officer advised that reserves will only take the Council so far in seeking to transform services and without the provision of increased capital funding by Welsh Government, which is not covered by the Audit Wales review, the Council is limited in what it can do to improve its physical assets and consequently, service delivery. The Section 151 Officer gave examples of how the Council has used the capital resources available to it to enhance services and improve efficiency through the development of extra care housing for older people and the use of technology within that provision to reduce costs and building new modern schools to replace a number of smaller schools thereby reducing the schools estate and associated maintenance costs. Increased capital funding would enable the Council to further invest in upgrading its buildings e.g. leisure centres to improve efficiency and to better serve the island's residents and communities. If the opportunities which may arise from the Anglesey Freeport and the development of the Wylfa site are realised, it could improve the Council's financial position especially from a capital funding perspective.

In further discussion it was confirmed that the Council along with other councils in Wales through the WLGA have been lobbying Welsh Government for some time for adequate funding for local government including improved capital funding and for better funding

arrangements. Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing highlighted that for much of his time as holder of the Finance portfolio the Council had been firefighting immediate pressures leaving little scope for long-term planning.

Having considered the reports, it was resolved to confirm that the Governance and Audit Committee takes assurance from the Council's response that it understands its financial position and is developing a longer-term financial strategy, subject to a longer term indication of future funding from Welsh Government.

(Councillor Aled M. Jones abstained from voting)

9. REVIEW OF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Audit and Risk incorporating the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme and Training Programme to the 8 May 2025 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

It was resolved to accept the Forward Work Programme 2024/25 as meeting the Committee's responsibilities in accordance with its terms of reference.

**Mr Dilwyn Evans
(Chair)**

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	8 May 2025
Subject:	Governance and Audit Committee Action Log
Head of Service:	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author:	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales
Nature and Reason for Reporting: This report informs the members of the Governance and Audit Committee about the status of the actions / decisions it has agreed upon.	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This action log is updated prior to each meeting to enable the Committee to monitor the progress and completion of the actions/decisions it has agreed upon.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Governance and Audit Committee notes the actions detailed in the following table and is content that the actions have been implemented to its satisfaction.

Governance and Audit Committee Action Log

No.	Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Owner	Action Taken	Status
10	27/06/24	9	Monitoring the number of people in economic inactivity be included as part of the Council's population trends dataset.	Corporate Planning and Performance Manager	<p>The Council has completed a socio – economic analysis of the island's population, this includes economic inactivity, a report for the north Anglesey region was presented to the Executive in July 2024.</p> <p>A report for the whole island is also in progress and will be published shortly.</p> <p>UPDATE: At its meeting of the 5 December 2024 (Item 3), the Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager agreed to provide the committee with a link to access the Quod Anglesey socio-economic analysis and impact report when published.</p>	In progress.
	05/12/24	3				
16	19/09/24	5	The Annual Concerns, Complaints and Whistleblowing Report for 2024/25 to the Committee to include salient information regarding Social Services service user concerns and complaints.	Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer		Next report due July 2025.

No.	Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Owner	Action Taken	Status
18	19/09/24	6	The Annual Treasury Management report to be reviewed to ensure tense consistency and clarity.	Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer	Will be reviewed when drafting the next report.	Next report due September 2025.
19	05/12/24	5	The Committee to be provided in due course with an update on the progress of the identified measures to provide resolutions.	Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer	Concerns raised by a service regarding the CRM will require further adaptations, but the capacity to implement them are currently limited. The unfilled position may also limit a meaningful update. A progress update will therefore be provided in the next annual complaints report, in July 2025, allowing the Committee to receive information before the next annual PSOW letter.	Next report due July 2025.
20	05/12/24	11	For future external audit and regulator monitoring reports, updates on the progress of responses to recommendations be accompanied by a timescale for the completion of the work.	Corporate Planning and Performance Manager		Next report due December 2025.

No.	Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Owner	Action Taken	Status
21	11/02/25	4	To request the Council to consider examining the benefits that working collaboratively with local and regional colleges has delivered in terms of enabling the Council to meet its recruitment and skills needs and fill vacancies.	Head of Profession HR and Transformation		
22	11/02/25	6	The Committee to be provided with information about the income / savings which the installation of solar panels on Council buildings using Salix funding is projected to generate.	Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer	Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer will explore with the Property Team what can be provided to the Committee.	
23	11/02/25	6	The Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer to forward a copy of the Quarter 1 2024/25 Treasury Management update report to the Chair for a review of its format.	Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer	Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer circulated a copy of the update for quarter 3 to all members of the Committee on 5 March 2025 and welcomed comments on the new format and whether it was more useful. Comments were received from the Chair.	Complete.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	8 May 2025
Subject:	Internal Audit Update
Head of Service:	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author:	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales
<p>Nature and Reason for Reporting:</p> <p>The Governance and Audit Committee’s Terms of Reference has an explicit requirement for the Committee to oversee the Council’s internal audit arrangements as part of its legislative duties under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. (3.4.8.10.1)</p> <p>The Committee is required to consider updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern, management responses and action in hand as a result of internal audit work. It is required to consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested, including the effectiveness of internal controls and will monitor the implementation of agreed actions. (3.4.8.10.10)</p> <p>This report fulfils the requirements of the new Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector), which are mandated from 1 April 2025 consisting of the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) of the IIA, the Application Note: Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK public sector and the CIPFA Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government.</p> <p>It is also consistent with the recommended practices for the oversight of internal audit as determined in CIPFA’s Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022.</p>	

1. Introduction

1.1 Standard 11.3 of the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) requires the chief audit executive to communicate the results of internal audit services to the board¹ and senior management periodically and for each engagement.

¹ The GIAS recognises that in the public sector, governance structures or other laws or regulations may impact on how the standards can be applied, particularly when referring to the ‘board’. This is the case in UK local government, where there is not a straightforward replacement for the ‘board’ as described in GIAS. Therefore the Code has been developed to provide for the governance of internal audit in a way that is appropriate for UK local government bodies. It includes roles and responsibilities of the audit committee, senior management and those charged with governance towards internal audit.

1.2 In addition, Standard 15.1 requires the chief audit executive to disseminate the final communication to parties who can ensure that the results are given due consideration.

1.3 This report updates the Committee, as at 31 March 2025, on the audits completed since the last update as at 31 January 2025, the current workload of internal audit and our priorities for the short to medium term going forward.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee considers:

- the outcome of Internal Audit's engagements,
- the assurance provided and
- our priorities going forward.

Internal Audit Update

May 2025



Marion Pryor BA MA CMIIA CPFA ACFS

Head of Audit & Risk



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Summary of Assurance Work Completed Since Last Update

1. This section provides an overview of assurance reports finalised since the meeting in February 2025, including the overall assurance rating and the number of issues/risks/opportunities raised.
2. We have finalised **six** pieces of work in the period, summarised below and discussed in more detail later in the report:

Title	Assurance Level	Critical	Major	Moderate
Destination – Maritime Team: Income Processes (First Follow Up)	Reasonable	0	1	1
Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards	Reasonable	0	2	3
Early Education and Childcare Grant Programmes	Reasonable	0	2	5
Management of the Council’s Physical Assets (YM14)	Reasonable	0	3	1
Disabled Facilities Grants (First Follow Up)	Limited	0	1	3
Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (Second Follow Up)	Limited	0	2	4

Destination – Maritime Team: Income Processes (First Follow Up)

Reasonable Assurance	Issues/ Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	1	Major
	1	Moderate

3. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Has management addressed the 'Issues / Risks / Opportunities' raised in our report from June 2024?
4. Our follow-up review concluded that the Destination Function's Maritime Team has made significant progress in strengthening its income processes, effectively reducing the risk of fraud and error.
5. Key improvements include:
- Reduced reliance on cash through the introduction of payments through the Customer Relationship Management system and the introduction of handheld card readers at beach and harbour locations.
 - A full review of maritime fees and charges to align with industry standards.
 - Centralised records and itemised invoices for filming events.
 - Improved systems for tracking watercraft registrations and annual stock reconciliations.
 - Enhanced oversight and independent checks of official receipts.
6. Five of seven identified issues have been resolved, and the remaining two are on track to be completed by the end of April 2025. The assurance rating remains 'reasonable', and no further formal review will be conducted, though internal monitoring will continue.

Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards

Reasonable Assurance	Issues / Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	2	Major
	3	Moderate

7. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Does the Council have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that payment card transactions are undertaken in a secure way, as reflected in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards?
8. Our review concluded that, in the main, the Council has reasonable arrangements in place to ensure ongoing compliance in most areas across its payment methods (e.g. chip and pin devices at Council sites, and online payment facilities on its website). However, payments made by telephone require additional mitigation to ensure compliance and the Council has an ongoing project to replace telephone payments through its call centre with an alternative compliant solution.
9. A similar solution is not currently available for systems operating at the Leisure Centres and the Oriel and continuing to undertake telephone payments via a non-compliant process increases the risk of customer data being compromised, financial penalties imposed on the Council or withdrawal of card payment services.
10. From April 2024, external vulnerability scans of the website facilities are required but arrangements have yet to be made.
11. However, the outcome of our review was mainly positive. The audit, carried out by external IT audit specialists from Salford City Council, outlined seven recommendations designed to improve the Council's existing arrangements for ensuring compliance. We assessed these against the Council's risk management matrix and our own internal audit methodology and have agreed an action plan with management. Within the scope of the review, we were able to provide 'reasonable' assurance of the governance, risk management and control of this area.

Early Education and Childcare Grant Programmes

Reasonable Assurance	Issues/ Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	2	Major
	5	Moderate

12. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Does the Council have effective arrangements in place to apply and implement the Welsh Government Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme and Welsh Medium Capital Grant Programme for developing childcare and Welsh Medium education and childcare in a fair and robust way?
13. The Council's arrangements for delivering these programmes are generally reasonable but need improvements to fully comply with Welsh Government guidelines and ensure fairness and robustness.
14. Currently, the Council does not enable all non-maintained childcare settings to access Early Education (10 hours), or Flying Start funding, the only council in Wales with this limitation and contrary to WG guidance. This policy requires urgent review.
15. Business cases for capital funding are based on research and consultation, but need better data and more thorough impact assessments, especially regarding local childcare settings. Future bids should align more closely with best practice and WG guidance.
16. Procurement processes have generally been fair, with support provided for tendering. However, a challenge to one contract award highlights the need for continued transparency and fairness to maintain stakeholder trust.
17. Flying Start funding is not consistently available across all eligible settings, but the Council is planning an expansion to align with WG's Phase 3 rollout, aiming for full implementation by 2028.
18. The Council is actively addressing these issues. Enhanced quality monitoring and regular progress reporting to senior management will improve governance and ensure compliance with requirements. While improvements are underway, we can provide **'reasonable'** assurance and will continue to closely monitor the implementation of actions.

Management of the Council's Assets (YM14)

Reasonable Assurance	Issues/ Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	3	Major
	1	Moderate

19. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Does the Council have effective arrangements in place to manage its strategic risk that the Council's physical assets may not be suitable or meet the future needs of residents, business and visitors?
20. The Council has established a strategic framework to manage the risk that its physical assets may not meet future needs, particularly through its new five-year Asset Management Strategic Plan (AMSP). However, further work is needed to strengthen governance, monitoring, and accountability to ensure the successful delivery of intended outcomes. Key developments include:
- Approval of the AMSP in March 2024, aiming for a sustainable and effective asset portfolio.
 - Initial steps taken to improve asset data quality, including a new property management system and condition surveys.
 - Adoption of the Highways Asset Management Strategy (HAMS) in 2023 and a clear Capital Strategy aligning investment with corporate priorities.
21. However, several gaps remain:
- Governance structures like the Land and Assets Group have not yet overseen AMSP implementation, and oversight of HAMS actions, particularly on decarbonisation, is limited.
 - Financial forecasting for the Capital Strategy needs refining through better cost assessments of corporate strategies.
 - A robust process for benefits realisation and lessons learned in capital projects.
22. Despite these issues, progress since the last review provides **reasonable** assurance of the commitment to managing this risk.

Disabled Facilities Grants (First Follow Up)

Limited Assurance	Issues/ Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	1	Major
	3	Moderate

23. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Has management addressed the 'Issues / Risks / Opportunities' raised in our report from April 2024?
24. Our follow-up review found that the Housing service has made some progress in improving its Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) processes, particularly in enhancing payment controls, which helps reduce risks of fraud, error, and duplicate payments.
25. Key improvements include transitioning to a more secure 'Procure to Pay' (P2P) system, adding administrative support to strengthen oversight, recovering a previous £4k duplicate payment, and updating the Council's website with current DFG policy.
26. However, several key weaknesses remain:
- A duplicate payment of £5k remains unrecovered.
 - Performance reporting lacks a full end-to-end view of the DFG process and is not independently verified, risking inaccurate data.
 - Legal safeguards are missing, as grants to owner-occupiers have not been recorded on the local land charges register or as a restriction on the Land Registry, risking potential financial losses.
 - Administrative gaps persist, with incomplete records on approvals, ongoing, and completed works, raising the chance of errors.
27. Despite positive steps, these ongoing issues continue to pose risks to the Council, and further improvements are needed to ensure a robust and accountable Disabled Facilities Grant process.
28. We will carry out a further formal follow up review in October 2025 to ensure the remaining issues are addressed and that the improvements are effective.

Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (Second Follow Up)

Limited Assurance	Issues/ Risks / Opportunities	
	0	Critical
	2	Major
	4	Moderate

29. Our review sought to answer the following key question:
Has management addressed the 'Issues / Risks / Opportunities' raised in our report from September 2023?
30. The Service has made further progress since the original September 2023 review, notably in establishing advance payments, simplifying customer payment processes on the Council's website, and aligning the sundry debt financial system with billing and recovery processes.
31. Management oversight has increased allowing an opportunity to discuss complex cases, and around £500k in older sundry debts raised before 2023 have been reduced, mainly through cancellation and write-off, but also with some significant payments received and the establishment of payment plans.
32. Regular assessment of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debts has resulted in write-offs totalling nearly £650k. In addition, a new system has been introduced to automate parts of Council Tax recovery, which will provide staff with the opportunity to invest more time analysing more complex Council Tax debts which require specialist intervention.
33. Despite these advancements, substantial older debts remain unresolved due to limited resources and legal action to recover sundry debts has not been fully pursued. The ability to focus on older arrears is hindered by prioritisation on the recovery of current balances.
34. Without additional resource, resolving this situation will be challenging.
35. A full review of the revised recovery process will be included in the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2025/26. This ongoing focus will provide the Committee with assurance that measures have been taken to strengthen the recovery processes moving forward.

Work in Progress

36. The following pieces of work are currently in progress:

Area	Reason for Audit	Stage
National Fraud Initiative	Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy 2025-2028	Match reports received end of December 2024. Currently reviewing high-risk matches.
Adult Residential Care Finance – Financial Assessments	Requested by the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer	Draft Report Issued
Council Tax Base	Requested by the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer	Fieldwork
IT Audit: Service Desk Management	Strategic Risk Register (YM3)	Fieldwork
IT Audit: Cyber Security in Schools	Strategic Risk Register (YM3)	Fieldwork
Strategic Risk: Poverty	Strategic Risk Register (YM11)	Fieldwork
Performance Management	Internal Audit Strategy 2025-26	Scoping
IT Audit: IT Supplier Management	First Follow Up	Scoping

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Outstanding Actions

- 37. Work is progressing to support services with addressing all 'Issues / Risks / Opportunities' raised and implementing all outstanding actions.
- 38. As at 31 March 2025, there are currently no actions that have reached their target date for completion which have become 'overdue'.
- 39. A more detailed report is submitted separately to this meeting of all actions outstanding.

Priorities

Short/Medium Term Priorities

40. Our current workload can be seen in [Work in Progress](#) detailed earlier in this report. We are in the process of finalising the remaining audits from our Annual Internal Audit Strategy for 2024-25 and work continues consulting on the 2025-26 Internal Audit Strategy.
41. Work continues on the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy 2025-2028 and a report will be brought to the Committee on progress with this strategy to its meeting in September 2025.
42. The Head of Audit and Risk has been heavily involved in a CIPFA working group to respond to the issuing of the Global Internal Audit Standards.

Longer Term Priorities

Changes to Internal Audit Standards

43. With effect from 1 April 2025, the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) UK Public Sector replaces the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).
44. Although 1 April is the effective date for the new standards, internal audit teams will not be expected to demonstrate full conformance on this date. CIPFA acknowledges teams will build up their conformance and time will be needed to make the transition and build familiarity. It is a significant change that will mean internal audit teams will need to review their working practices to make sure they comply with the standards and have an action plan to achieve compliance.
45. CIPFA issued a briefing for audit committee members on the new internal audit standards - Audit Committee Update Issue 42, which was forwarded to the Committee on 17/04/25.
46. A self-assessment gap analysis and action plan for compliance will be submitted to the July meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL		
Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee	
Date:	8 May 2025	
Subject:	Outstanding Internal Audit Issues, Risks and Opportunities	
Head of Service:	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales	
Report Authors:	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales	Nanette Williams Principal Auditor NanetteWilliams@anglesey.gov.wales
<p>Nature and Reason for Reporting: This report meets the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which sets out the legislative duties to be performed by a council's audit committee, specifically, to oversee the authority's internal audit arrangements.</p> <p>The Governance and Audit Committee's terms of reference provide a responsibility for it to monitor the implementation of agreed actions (3.4.8.10.10). This report provides an update on the status of the outstanding issues, risks and opportunities that Internal Audit has raised.</p> <p>This report also fulfils the requirements of the new Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) in the UK Public Sector, which require the chief audit executive to establish a methodology to confirm that management has implemented internal audit recommendations or management action plans. This includes enquiring about progress on implementation, performing follow-up assessments using a risk-based approach and updating the status of management's actions in a tracking system (Standard 15.2). Internal audit's existing follow up arrangements fully conform with the new GIAS in the UK Public Sector.</p>		

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Internal Audit, on behalf of the Council, monitors issues and risks identified during audit work via its action tracking system, 4action.
- 1.2. A dashboard displays a real-time snapshot of current performance in addressing outstanding actions and allows effective tracking and reporting of this information. The Head of Audit and Risk regularly shares this dashboard with the Governance and Audit Committee as part of her internal audit update reports.
- 1.3. In addition, the Governance and Audit Committee has requested that it receives a separate, detailed report outlining overall performance in addressing audit actions, twice a year. At its meeting on 21 September 2021, the former Committee considered and determined the level of detail to be included in the report, to meet its assurance needs in this area.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That the Governance and Audit Committee:

- considers the Council's progress in addressing the outstanding Internal Audit 'Issues / Risks / Opportunities' and determines whether this is satisfactory.

Outstanding Internal Audit Issues / Risks / Opportunities

May 2025

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Marion Pryor BA MA CMIIA CPFA ACFS

Nanette Williams MSc CMIIA CIA



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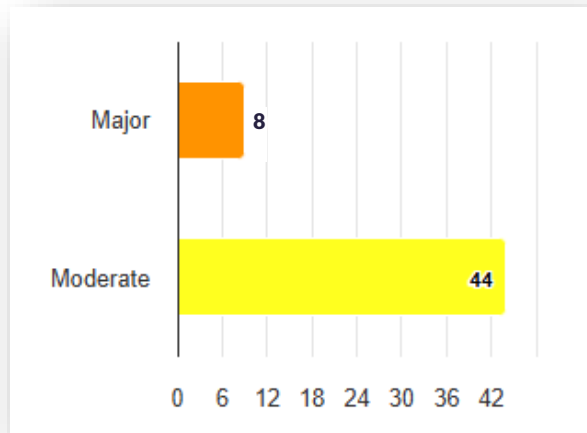
Introduction

1. The Governance and Audit Committee’s terms of reference provide a responsibility for it to monitor the implementation of actions taken by management to address issues, risks and opportunities raised by Internal Audit during the course of its work.
2. To discharge this duty, the Committee requested that it receives a detailed report showing the Council’s performance in addressing outstanding actions twice a year, at its meetings in April and September.
3. As previously reported, Internal Audit has moved away from making recommendations to reporting ‘Issues’ and ‘Risks’ and more recently ‘Opportunities’. To encourage management to have ownership for these risks, it is their responsibility to develop an action plan to address the issues, risks and opportunities identified, and we monitor how these have been addressed.
4. Reports which have received ‘Limited’ or ‘No’ Assurance are subject to a formal follow up review by Internal Audit, with an audit report produced and an assurance rating given. We monitor all other issues, risks and opportunities using the Council’s corporate action tracking system (4action).
5. We have developed and refined a user dashboard on 4action, which displays a real-time snapshot of current performance in addressing outstanding actions and enables effective tracking and reporting of this information.
6. We continuously monitor ‘overdue’ actions to enable us to promptly obtain progress updates from management.

Current Performance

7. The following five graphs show the outstanding actions across the Council as of 31 March 2025. A detailed status update of the 8 outstanding 'major' rated issues / risks / opportunities is also shown at [Appendix 1](#).
8. It should be noted that no 'Red' or 'Critical' issues / risks / opportunities were raised during the year and there are no Red or 'Critical' 'issues / risks / opportunities' currently outstanding.
9. As of 31 March 2025, we are tracking 52 outstanding actions. Of these, 8 are assessed as 'major' (amber) and 44 'moderate' (yellow) risks, as shown in graph 1.

Graph 1 - Total Outstanding Actions

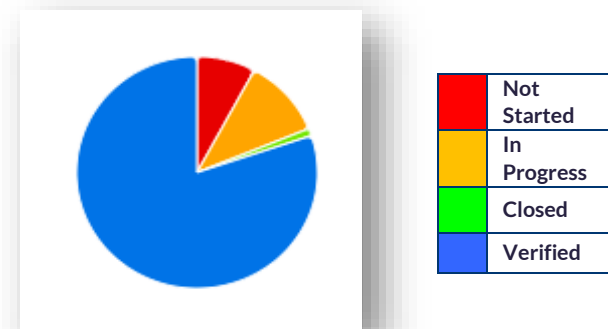


10. We actively monitor all actions and pursue them with management when they become due to ensure they are addressed.

Graph 2 - Overdue Actions

11. At the time of writing, there are currently no actions that have reached their target date for completion which have become 'overdue'.

Graph 3 - Total Issues / Risks / Opportunities by status

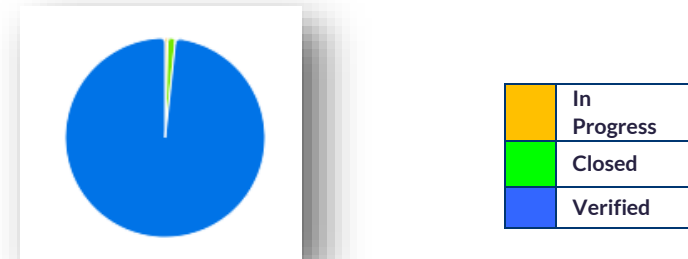


12. Graph 3 shows the status of all outstanding actions (irrespective of the date by when management agreed to address them). It shows that management have now

addressed 82% of their agreed actions and Internal Audit has verified 81%¹.

13. The remaining 1% yet to be formally verified relates to an audit of 'IT Supplier Management'. We will be conducting a follow up audit of this area in June 2025 and will verify that management has successfully implemented these actions during this piece of work.
14. The actions showing as 'not started' relate to several recently completed audits where the actions identified have not yet reached their anticipated completion dates. These include:
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - Counter Fraud controls within Revenues refunds
 - Electrical Contractor Expenditure
 - Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS)
15. When these dates approach, we will actively pursue updates from management to determine progress.

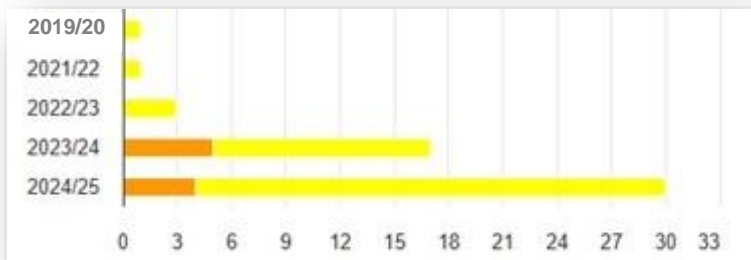
Graph 4 – Total Issues / Risks / Opportunities by status (where due)



16. In contrast, Graph 4 shows the status of all actions that have reached their target date. It shows that where due, 98% have been addressed.
17. Of these, Internal Audit has verified virtually all, however as detailed above, those that have yet to be verified relate to an audit of 'IT Supplier Management'.
18. We will occasionally extend completion dates for some actions, but only if the service can demonstrate a legitimate reason for the extension, e.g., it becomes clear that the original date is unachievable, as significantly more work is needed to address the issue/risk/opportunity.

¹ Internal Audit verifies all 'closed' actions to ensure we are satisfied that the action taken by management has addressed the risk originally identified.

Graph 5 – All outstanding Issues / Risks / Opportunities by year



	Critical
	Major
	Moderate

19. As detailed above, 52 outstanding actions have yet to be fully completed.
20. These are spread between financial years 2019/20 and 2024/25. While graph 5 indicates the majority relate to the current and last financial year, there are some older issues/risks/opportunities dating back to 2019/20 and 2021/22 that management has yet to fully address.
21. These relate to finalising the Council's assurance mapping arrangements and work to digitise the Council's housing application process, which are all in the process of being addressed.

22. They are both rated as 'moderate' or 'yellow' in risk priority, and we are assured by management that:

- The Council has completed the upgrade of its Risk Management system and Internal Audit routinely populates third line assurances following relevant audit work. However, as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) will shortly be publishing guidance for local authorities on assurance mapping, the Council has paused developing its assurance map further until this guidance is available.
- Final testing of the Council's housing application process through its Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is underway. The Housing service expects online applications to go live in the next 2-3 months.

23. It should be noted that there are no 'major' rated issues / risks / opportunities dating back further than 2023/24. This demonstrates that management are prioritising addressing risks of higher priority.
24. In addition, to ensure that services are successfully addressing their issues / risks / opportunities promptly, where a 'major' rated issue / risk / opportunity is still not resolved 12 months after the original completion date has passed, action owners are asked to provide an update to the Committee on the reasons for the delay in it being addressed.
25. There are currently two 'major' or 'amber' rated issues / risks / opportunities that this applies to relating to the audit of Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts, in particular recovery of aged sundry debts and

processes for pursuing outstanding sundry debts via the County Court.

26. We include more detail on progress with addressing these issues/risks/opportunities in our final follow up report, included as part of the Head of Audit and Risk's update report to this meeting. The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer will be in attendance at the meeting of the Committee on 8 May 2025 to provide a further update.
27. A detailed status update of all eight outstanding 'major' rated issues /risks / opportunities currently being tracked in 4action follows at [Appendix 1](#).
28. We will endeavour to pursue all outstanding actions to ensure completion.

Appendix 1: Detailed Status of Outstanding 'Major' Rated Issues / Risks / Opportunities

Audit Title	Audit Year	Report Issue Date	Current Target Date	Report Assurance Rating*	Issue /Risk/Opportunity Summary	Current Status
Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts	2023/24	Sept 2023	2025/26	Limited	<p>Many aged sundry debts have not been actively pursued for several years.</p> <p>There is a risk that by not implementing a regular, systematic process to review aged debts, outstanding amounts will both become and remain dormant, resulting in financial loss for the Council.</p>	<p>We recently carried out a formal follow up review of Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts.</p> <p>We provide the Committee with a more detailed update in our final follow up report, included as part of the Head of Audit and Risk's update report.</p>
Recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts	2023/24	Sept 2023	2025/26	Limited	The Council has not attempted to recover unpaid sundry debts via the County Court since 2019-20.	As above.
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	2023/24	March 2024	01/10/25	Limited	The Council's current Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) key performance indicators (KPIs) do not align with the Welsh Government's Housing Adaptations Service Standards' expected timeframes.	<p>We recently carried out a formal follow up review of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).</p> <p>We provide the Committee with a more detailed update in our final follow up report, included as part of the Head of Audit and Risk's update report.</p>
Maritime Income Processes	2023/24	June 2024	30/04/25	Reasonable	The service's reliance on cash-based transactions poses financial, fraud and health and safety risks.	<p>We recently carried out a formal follow up review of Maritime Income Processes.</p> <p>We provide the Committee with a more detailed update in our final follow up report, included as part of the Head of Audit and Risk's update report.</p>

Audit Title	Audit Year	Report Issue Date	Current Target Date	Report Assurance Rating*	Issue /Risk/Opportunity Summary	Current Status
Housing Development	2024/25	December 2024	30/04/25	Reasonable	Significant delays in renovating and consequently re-letting 'buy-back' properties are preventing the Council from promptly increasing social / affordable housing availability.	<p>Work to address this issue/risk/opportunity is underway. The Housing Service has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created and commenced recruitment of a Clerk of Works post, whose role once appointed will be to monitor progress against development contracts. Identified relevant 'buy-back' properties that can be utilised temporarily as temporary / emergency accommodation for individuals at risk of homelessness. A pilot to let these for this purpose will commence once required works are completed. Expanded voids reporting structure to now include 'buy-backs'.
Housing Development	2024/25	December 2024	01/06/25	Reasonable	The Housing Service's procurement approach in respect of 'buy-back' properties i.e. grouping together multiple buy-back properties in need of renovation into single tenders, is contributing to significant delays in re-letting these properties, as detailed in issue/risk/opportunity above.	The Housing Service is considering the suitability of the Housing Services Contractor Framework Agreement for use with 'buy-backs' to reduce renovation time. As detailed above, the Service is also commencing a pilot to use these properties as temporary or emergency accommodation, which will allow tendering processes to be arranged whilst the property is occupied.
IT Audit - Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS)	2024/25	March 2025	30/09/25	Reasonable	The Council has yet to complete a PCI DSS self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) for all of its payment channels.	<p>Action not yet due for completion.</p> <p>We provide the Committee with more information in our final report, included as part of the Head of Audit and Risk's update report.</p>

Audit Title	Audit Year	Report Issue Date	Current Target Date	Report Assurance Rating*	Issue /Risk/Opportunity Summary	Current Status
IT Audit – Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS)	2024/25	March 2025	30/09/25	Reasonable	Current processes for accepting telephone card payments are not PCI DSS compliant.	Action not yet due for completion. As above.

*Current assurance rating - either as at time of original audit or following follow up review.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	8 May 2025
Subject:	Review of the Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference and compliance with new Standards
Head of Service:	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author:	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales
<p>Nature and Reason for Reporting: This report provides the outcome of a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference, carried out against the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government, which came into effect from 1 April 2025.</p>	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Committee last approved a revised Terms of Reference in [June 2024](#), following an independent evaluation of the Committee's impact and effectiveness conducted by CIPFA during 2023-24.
- 1.2. Revised Terms of Reference follow, with changes tracked for ease of reference.

2. New Global Internal Audit Standards

- 2.1. Since the last review, the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) has issued new Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS)¹. The IIA recognised that in the public sector, governance structures or other laws or regulations may impact on how the standards could be applied.
- 2.2. This is the case in UK local government. For example, there is not a straightforward replacement for the 'board' as described in GIAS. Local government audit committees are non-executive advisory bodies with limited decision-making powers. Internal audit's primary mandate comes from statutory regulations rather than the decision of the audit committee.

¹ Global Internal Audit Standards (UK public sector), are mandated from 1 April 2025 consisting of the [Global Internal Audit Standards](#) (GIAS) of the IIA and the [Application Note: Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK public sector](#).

3. Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government

- 3.1. As a result, CIPFA, as the Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setter for the UK public sector, developed the Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government (the Code) to support authorities in establishing their internal audit arrangements by providing oversight and support for internal audit.
- 3.2. The Code is designed to work alongside the new standards. It is aimed at those responsible for ensuring effective governance arrangements for internal audit – in the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s case, the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 3.3. Much of the Code is already recognised good practice as per existing CIPFA guidance, including:
 - [Position Statement: audit committees in local authorities and police \(2022\)](#)
 - [The role of the head of internal audit \(2019\)](#) (the Code replaces the organisational responsibilities)
 - The [Financial Management Code](#) (2019).
- 3.4. Many authorities will have these arrangements, or close to them, in place. Bringing them together into a code strengthens the position of internal audit in local government and supports its professionalism.
- 3.5. By following the Code, the Council can be confident that governance of internal audit is in line with the expectations of GIAS in the UK public sector.
- 3.6. The Council will be required to explain how it complies with the Code in its annual governance statement. Therefore, a comparison of the Governance and Audit Committee’s Terms of Reference with the Code was undertaken to ensure the requirements of the Code are recognised in the relevant section of the Committee’s Terms of Reference. The provisions of the Code are briefly summarised below along with the Council’s current position, and any revisions that will be made as a consequence.

4. Providing authority for internal audit

Internal audit’s mandate and Charter

- 4.1. In local government in the UK, internal audit’s authority has statutory backing through the regulations issued by national UK governments. In ‘GIAS in the UK public sector’ this is referred to as internal audit’s mandate, so the primary mandate comes from the regulations. However, it also requires the audit committee to approve, or recommend for approval, the mandate.
- 4.2. This is currently recognised in the Committee’s Terms of Reference. The ‘mandate’ is defined in the Internal Audit Charter and the Committee’s Terms of Reference requires the Charter to be approved by the Governance and Audit Committee.

- 4.3. The Code requires the chief audit executive to be responsible for preparing a charter that conforms with 'GIAS in the UK public sector', and for the committee to be satisfied that it covers the governance arrangements for internal audit. The Code also recommends audit committees undertake a regular review to confirm the charter.
- 4.4. Although the Terms of Reference make provision for the Committee to review and approve the Internal Audit Charter, which defines the internal audit's activity purpose, authority and responsibility, they do not detail what should be included in the Charter, nor require that the Charter should conform with 'GIAS in the UK public sector', nor the frequency of review.
- 4.5. Therefore, the requirement for the Committee to regularly satisfy itself that the Charter conforms with the relevant internal auditing standards will be inserted at 3.4.8.10.2.

Support for Internal Audit

- 4.6. The Code advocates that internal audit's activities require access to and support from senior management, the audit committee and those charged with governance. Support allows internal audit to apply their mandate and charter in practice and meet expectations.
- 4.7. The Code determines that audit committees can demonstrate support for internal audit by:
 - enquiring of senior management and the chief audit executive about any restrictions on the internal audit's scope, access, authority or resources that limit its ability to carry out its responsibilities effectively
 - considering the audit plan or planning scope and formally approving or recommending approval as appropriate
 - meeting at least annually with the chief audit executive in sessions without senior management present
- 4.8. All these provisions are included in the Committee's Terms of Reference, apart from the frequency of the meeting between the chief audit executive and the committee without senior management present. An 'annual' requirement will be inserted at 3.4.8.10.15.

5. Positioning internal audit independently

- 5.1. On behalf of those charged with governance and the audit committee, the Code requires senior management to establish and protect the internal audit function's independence.
- 5.2. The Code suggests that safeguards should include the chief audit executive reporting directly to the audit committee on audit activities, having private meetings with the audit committee at least annually and if the chief audit executive has additional roles, the potential impact on independence is assessed, discussed with the audit committee, and mitigated with appropriate safeguards.

- 5.3. The Code expects the audit committee to review the effectiveness of these safeguards at least annually, including any issues or concerns about independence raised by the chief audit executive. The chief audit executive must have the right of access to the chair of the audit committee at any time. The audit committee can escalate its concerns about internal audit independence to those charged with governance.
- 5.4. All these safeguards are included within the Internal Audit Charter, which the Committee's Terms of Reference require it to approve. However, the Terms of Reference currently require a 'periodic review' of the Charter, whereas the Code requires an 'annual' review of the safeguards to impairment. 3.4.8.1.12 will be amended accordingly.

6. Oversight of internal audit

- 6.1. The Code requires the audit committee to oversee internal audit effectiveness on behalf of those charged with governance².

Audit committee interaction

- 6.2. To ensure effective interaction between the audit committee and internal audit, the Code requires committees to align their work plan with the chief audit executive to cover key internal audit matters. This includes reviewing the internal audit mandate, strategy, plans, engagement reports, tracking audit actions and the annual conclusion. The committee must understand the authority's assurance framework, governance, risk management, and control processes to enhance its engagement with internal audit. Senior management should keep the committee informed of significant governance, risk, and control changes. Additionally, if internal audit identifies unacceptable risks, the committee must review the matter and provide recommendations to management.
- 6.3. All these provisions are included in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Resources

- 6.4. The Code requires audit committees and senior management to ensure internal audit has sufficient financial, human, and technological resources to meet its mandate and comply with 'GIAS in the UK public sector'. Any concerns about internal audit's ability to fulfil its role should be formally recorded and reported to those charged with governance. If resource limitations affect the chief audit executive's ability to provide an annual conclusion, this must be disclosed in the annual governance statement. Resourcing decisions should consider long-term governance and financial sustainability.
- 6.5. The current Terms of Reference do not make reference to what should happen if there are resource limitations. 3.4.8.10.5 will be amended in accordance with the Code.

² In Wales, there are additional requirements placed on audit committees provided by the Local Government Measure 2011 as amended by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 which require local authorities to appoint a "governance and audit committee to ...(e) oversee the authority's internal and external audit arrangements".

Quality

- 6.6. The Code requires audit committees to annually review the chief audit executive's assessment of conformance with 'GIAS in the UK public sector' and any action plan. They are also required to assess the chief audit executive's annual report, including conclusions on governance, risk management, control, and internal audit performance. To ensure internal audit meets regulatory requirements, the committee must evaluate its effectiveness based on standards compliance, interactions with the committee, performance, and senior management feedback. Findings should be reported to those charged with governance, such as in the audit committee's annual report.
- 6.7. These provisions are generally acknowledged in the Committee's Terms of Reference. References to the now defunct Public Sector Internal Audit Standards will be amended to refer to 'relevant internal auditing standards' to future-proof against further changes.

External quality assessment

- 6.8. On behalf of those charged with governance, senior management must ensure an external quality assessment of internal audit every five years against 'GIAS in the UK public sector' and the Code. They, along with the chief audit executive, should plan the review and present options to the audit committee. The audit committee must agree on the scope, method, and assessor, who should be familiar with the sector. The full assessment results and the chief audit executive's action plan must be reviewed, with progress monitored. If the audit committee lacks authority, it should report the results to those charged with governance.
- 6.9. The current Terms of Reference do not include reference to a report from senior management regarding options and timing, proposals for the scope and method of assessment of the EQA to be agreed by the audit committee. 3.4.8.10.13 will be amended to include these provisions.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1. That the Governance and Audit Committee considers whether the revisions to the Terms of Reference ensure the provisions within the CIPFA Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government are fully accounted for and if so, is content to approve the Terms of Reference as meeting these requirements.

3.4.8 Governance & Audit Committee – Terms of Reference

3.4.8.1 Statement of purpose

3.4.8.1.1. The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of the Council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

3.4.8.1.2. The purpose of the Governance and Audit Committee is to provide to members of full Council (*those charged with governance*) independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes.

3.4.8.1.3. The Committee oversees internal and external audit and other regulators, helping to ensure effective assurance arrangements are in place for both internal challenge and public accountability. It also reviews and assesses the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively and makes reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively. It also receives and comments upon the Council's annual self-assessment report and the report of the performance assessment panel.

3.4.8.1.4. There is clear separation between the role of the Governance and Audit Committee and that of scrutiny committees. The Governance and Audit Committee role seeks assurance that internal control systems of the Council are working and risks effectively managed, rather than the actual scrutiny of activities.

3.4.8.2 Composition and arrangements

3.4.8.2.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is a non-executive body established under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and is a fully constituted committee of the Council operating at a strategic level. The Committee will conduct its business non-politically and must abide by the rules concerning political balance, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3.4.8.2.2 The Committee will consist of one third of lay members; eight elected members and four lay members, recruited through a public recruitment exercise. Elected members will be politically balanced and will not be members of the Executive, but the Finance Portfolio Holder is required, as far as possible, to attend all meetings of the Committee. The Chair must be a lay member and the Deputy Chair will not be a member of the Executive or an assistant to its Executive. The lay members will serve for a fixed term to coincide with the length of the Council, i.e. five years, and will serve a maximum of two terms. All members, including the lay members, are subject to the Council's Code of Conduct and will declare any interests. The lay members will have equal status to that of the elected members in terms of access to staff and information, for the purposes of the Governance and Audit Committee.

3.4.8.2.3 The committee members will decide upon the chair and deputy-chair of the Committee. All committee members, including the lay members, shall have a vote.

3.4.8.2.4 Any officer or member called to attend a Governance and Audit Committee meeting must do so. They are expected to provide honest, open and complete answers to questions raised by the Committee. The Committee can invite other persons to attend before it, but anyone else so invited to attend is under no compulsion to do so.

3.4.8.2.5 The Committee will meet at least four times a year and must meet if the full council so decides, or if at least a third of the Committee's members requisition in writing to the Chair that a meeting be held. The Council will publish the committee dates annually, but additional meetings can be arranged at the discretion of the Chair if the required number of days' notice is provided and that the agenda is published prior to the meeting, in accordance with regulations.

3.4.8.2.6 The Committee will meet in private, at least annually, with the internal and external auditors, without officers present. An agenda is not required, and the Chair does not require any prior notice of any topics to be raised.

3.4.8.2.7 The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer, as the officer with responsibility for financial administration, will advise the Committee. The Committee will provide effective support to the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer, who consequently, will have direct and unfettered access to the Committee, normally via the Chair.

3.4.8.2.8 The Committee may request additional work from the external and internal auditors but the final decision rests with the auditors.

3.4.8.2.9 The external and internal auditors of the Council have the right to request the Chair of the Committee to consider any matter that the auditors believe should be brought to the attention of the Council.

3.4.8.2.10 All new members will receive a full induction to the Committee. Members will have role descriptions and will review their knowledge and skills through a self-assessment process. They will receive appropriate ongoing training in their role in accordance with an annual training programme and will receive regular briefings on new legislation, professional guidance and research.

3.4.8.3 Accountability arrangements

3.4.8.3.1 The Committee will report to full council (*'those charged with governance'*) on an annual basis the Governance and Audit Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; financial reporting arrangements, complaints handling and internal and external audit functions.

3.4.8.3.2 The Committee will report to full council (*'those charged with governance'*) on an annual basis the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose and its agreed terms of reference, including a conclusion on the compliance with the

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement. A regular self-assessment will be used to support the planning of the Governance and Audit Committee work programme and training plans and will inform the Committee's annual report.

3.4.8.3.3 The Committee is subject to normal arrangements of openness. Meetings will be held in public, agendas and reports are published and available for inspection. The exception to this is where 'exempt items' are being considered, which are chiefly matters which involve discussions concerning named individuals or refer to the business affairs of the Council which could prejudice the interests of the Council commercially, financially and legally. The Committee will make the final decision following the advice of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

3.4.8.4 Governance reporting

3.4.8.4.1 The Committee will review and assess the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework, and will consider the local code of governance.

3.4.8.4.2 The Committee will review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to full council approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, including the Head of Audit and Risk's annual opinion. It will consider whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the authority's objectives.

3.4.8.4.3 The Committee will support the Council to implement the values of ethical governance. It will promote measures to improve transparency and accountability and effective public reporting to the authority's stakeholders and the local community. As part of its review of governance arrangements, it will ensure there are adequate arrangements in place to enforce a strong commitment to ethical values, behaving with integrity and legal compliance at all levels.

3.4.8.4.4 The Committee will review the governance and assurance arrangements available for significant partnerships or collaborations. To this end, the Committee will receive a copy of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's annual report.

3.4.8.5 Treasury management

3.4.8.5.1 Full council has nominated the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

3.4.8.5.2 The Committee will undertake a scrutiny role in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, prior to approval by full council. Where it is undertaking this scrutiny role, it will endeavour to develop greater awareness and understanding of treasury matters among the members.

3.4.8.5.3 The Committee will review the treasury management policy and procedures to be satisfied that controls are satisfactory. It will receive six-monthly reports on activities, issues and trends to support the Committee's understanding of treasury management activities.

3.4.8.5.4 The Committee will review the treasury risk profile and processes and will review assurances on treasury management.

3.4.8.6 Value for money

3.4.8.6.1 The Committee will support the development of robust arrangements to ensure that the Council makes best use of its resources and taxpayers and service users receive excellent value for money.

3.4.8.6.2 The Committee will consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money.

3.4.8.6.3 The Committee will consider assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

3.4.8.7 Assurance framework

3.4.8.7.1 The Committee will consider the Council's assurance framework and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.

3.4.8.7.2 The Committee will ensure there is clarity of what assurance is provided, that there is a clear allocation of responsibility for providing assurance and duplication is avoided.

3.4.8.7.3 Annual assurance reports received by the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Corporate Health and Safety
- Cyber Security
- Senior Information Risk Owner
- Information Governance in Schools
- Insurance

3.4.8.8 Risk management

3.4.8.8.1 The Committee will review, assess and report on the effective development and operation of risk management arrangements in the Council. In particular, it will:

- Oversee the authority's risk management policy and strategy, and their implementation in practice.
- Oversee the integration of risk management into the governance and decision-making processes of the organisation.

- Review the arrangements to co-ordinate and lead risk management, including the process and reporting lines.
- Review the risk profile, keep up to date with significant areas of strategic risks and major operational and project risks.
- Review the assurance available for managing partnership risks, including the risk profile of the Council as part of the partnership.
- Seek assurance that adequate risk assessments support strategies and policies and risks are actively being managed and monitored.
- Follow up and monitor risks identified by auditors and inspectors to ensure that they are integrated into the risk management process.
- Support the development and embedding of good practice in the field of risk management practice by overseeing any evaluation or assessment of the council's arrangements, such as a risk maturity assessment or risk benchmarking, and reviewing evaluation, assurance and audit reports on risk management and monitoring progress on improvement plans.

3.4.8.8.2 Assurance over risk management will be a key element underpinning the Annual Governance Statement.

3.4.8.8.3 When acting as a risk committee, the Committee will:

- Review the strategic risk register and seek assurance that management appropriately own and manage risks effectively.
- Consider the adequacy and effectiveness in capturing and assessing the strategic risks.
- Evaluate whether planned mitigations are appropriate and effective, making recommendations to the responsible risk owner where appropriate.

3.4.8.9 Countering fraud and corruption

3.4.8.9.1 The Committee will review the effectiveness of the Council's whistleblowing arrangements, including the policy.

3.4.8.9.2 The Committee will have oversight of the Council's arrangements for managing the risks from fraud and corruption, providing assurance that they are fit for purpose and will champion good counter fraud and anti-corruption practice to the wider organisation.

3.4.8.9.3 The Committee will monitor the counter-fraud and corruption strategy, actions and resources, to ensure that it meets with recommended practice, governance standards and legislation.

3.4.8.9.4 The Committee will review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption. It will review the fraud risk profile to understand the level of fraud risk to which the authority is exposed and the implications for the wider control environment.

3.4.8.9.5 It will oversee any major areas of fraud, identified in an annual report and monitor action plans to address control weaknesses.

3.4.8.9.6 The Committee will consider the assurance provided by internal audit.

3.4.8.10 Internal audit

3.4.8.10.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 has an explicit requirement for the Governance and Audit Committee to oversee the Council's internal audit arrangements.

3.4.8.10.2 The Committee will regularly review and approve the Internal Audit Charter, which defines the internal audit's activity purpose, authority and responsibility. The Committee will satisfy itself that the Charter conforms to the relevant auditing standards.

3.4.8.10.3 If applicable, it will review proposals and make recommendations in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services.

3.4.8.10.4 The Committee will approve (but not direct) the risk-based internal audit strategy, including internal audit's resource requirements and the use of other sources of assurance. It will have a good understanding of the level of assurance risk management provides when it reviews the risk-based internal audit strategy. The Committee will approve significant interim changes to the strategy.

3.4.8.10.5 The Committee will make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of Audit and Risk to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations. Where there are concerns about internal audit's ability to fulfil its mandate or deliver an annual conclusion, concerns will be formally recorded and reported to those charged with governance and referred for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement.

3.4.8.10.6 The Committee will consider an annual report from the Head of Audit and Risk on internal audit's performance, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services.

3.4.8.10.7 The Committee will consider the Head of Audit and Risk's annual report and the opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion. These will assist the Committee in reviewing the Annual Governance Statement.

3.4.8.10.8 The Committee will consider the statement contained in the annual report of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards relevant internal auditing standards and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme that support the statement – these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.

3.4.8.10.9 The Committee will consider updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern, management responses and action in hand

as a result of internal audit work. It will consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested, including the effectiveness of internal controls and will monitor the implementation of agreed actions.

3.4.8.10.10 The Committee will receive reports outlining the action taken where the Head of Audit and Risk has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.

3.4.8.10.11 The Committee will consider reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to relevant internal auditing standards ~~the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note~~, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the Annual Governance Statement.

3.4.8.10.12 The Committee will consider, approve and periodically annually review any safeguards put in place to limit impairments to independence and objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Head of Audit and Risk.

3.4.8.10.13 The Committee will receive regular reports on and contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and, in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years. It will receive a report regarding options, timing, scope, method of assessment and oversee the qualifications and independence of the assessor, for approval.

3.4.8.10.14 The Committee will consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the Annual Governance Statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

3.4.8.10.15 The Committee will provide free and unfettered access to the Governance and Audit Committee Chair for the Head of Audit and Risk, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the committee, at least annually.

3.4.8.11 External audit

3.4.8.11.1 The Committee will support the independence and objectivity of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence.

3.4.8.11.2 The Committee will consider the external auditor's annual report, other relevant reports and the report to *'those charged with governance'*.

3.4.8.11.3 The Committee will oversee external audit arrangements, comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and ensure it gives value for money. It will consider external audit reports and will monitor their recommendations.

3.4.8.11.4 The Committee will advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.

3.4.8.11.5 There will be an opportunity for the Governance and Audit Committee to meet privately and separately with the external auditor, independent of those officers with whom the auditor must retain a working relationship.

3.4.8.12 Financial reporting

3.4.8.12.1 The Committee will review and scrutinise the Council's financial affairs, making reports and recommendations in relation to them.

3.4.8.12.2 The Committee will monitor the arrangements and preparations for financial reporting to ensure that statutory requirements and professional standards can be met.

3.4.8.12.3 The Committee will review, prior to approval by full council, the authority's annual financial statements, including the explanatory foreword, key messages, trends, consistency with financial performance, suitability of and compliance with accounting policies and treatments and major judgmental areas.

3.4.8.12.4 The Committee will consider the external auditor's report to 'those charged with governance' on issues arising from the audit of the accounts and whether they need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

3.4.8.12.5 The Committee will consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with [CIPFA's Financial Management Code](#).

3.4.8.13 Other regulators and inspectors

3.4.8.13.1 The Committee will receive and consider reports from any other regulators or inspectors, which will be a useful source of assurance. In respect of these, the authority will ensure there is no unnecessary duplication between the Governance and Audit Committee and any overview and scrutiny committee in considering such reports.

3.4.8.14 Complaints Handling

3.4.8.14.1 The Committee will review and assesses the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively. To this end, it will receive the Annual Letter from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

3.4.8.14.2 The Committee will make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively.

3.4.8.15 Self-assessment Report

3.4.8.15.1 Each financial year, the Committee will receive from the Executive a draft of the Council's self-assessment report [to be drafted in accordance with Chapter 1

of Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (performance and governance of principal councils)].

3.4.8.15.2 The Committee will receive the draft report from the Executive before the end of four weeks of the Executive making the report.

3.4.8.15.3 The Committee will review the draft report and may make recommendations for changes to the conclusions, or to anything included by the Executive by way of actions it intends taking, or it has already taken, so as to increase the extent to which it will meet the performance requirement in the financial year following the financial year to which the report relates.

3.4.8.15.4 Any recommendation made by the Committee, but not adopted by Council before publication, must be included in the report with reasons why the Council has not made the changes recommended by the Governance and Audit Committee.

3.4.8.16 Panel Performance ~~Panel~~ Assessment

3.4.8.16.1 At least once during an electoral cycle a panel performance assessment will take place in the period between ordinary elections of councillors to the Council. The Council may choose to commission more than one panel assessment in an electoral cycle, but it is not a requirement of the legislation. (The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021).

3.4.8.16.2 The Council must publish a panel performance assessment report at least six months before the date of the next ordinary election.

3.4.8.16.3 The Council must make a draft of its response to the panel performance assessment available to its Governance and Audit Committee, which must then review the draft response and may make recommendations for changes to the response to the panel assessment.

3.4.8.16.4 If the Council does not make a change recommended by the Governance and Audit Committee, it must set out in the final response the recommendation and the reasons why it did not make the change.

3.4.8.17 Auditor General Special Inspection

3.4.8.17.1 If the Auditor General carries out a special inspection (as it considers the Council is not, or may not, be meeting its performance requirements, and a report is sent to Council, as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving such report, the Council must make it available to the Governance and Audit Committee.

3.4.8.17.2 Should a response be required by Council to a report published in accordance with paragraph 3.4.8.17.1 above, Council must make a draft of the response available to the Governance and Audit Committee. The Committee must review the draft response and may make recommendations for changes to the statement made in response to what action, if any, the Council intends to take in response to the recommendations made by the Auditor General.

3.4.8.17.3 Any recommendation made by the Committee, but not adopted by Council before publication, must be included in the response with reasons why the Council has not made the changes recommended by the Governance and Audit Committee.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date	8 May 2025
Subject	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Annual Audit Summary 2024
Head of Service	Carys Edwards Head of Profession HR and Transformation Corporate Transformation
Report Author	Gwyndaf Parry Performance and Improvement Manager Corporate Transformation
<p>Reason for Reporting The Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference require it to oversee the external audit arrangements (3.4.8.11.3) and oversee the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies (3.4.8.11.4). The Committee is also required to receive and consider reports from any other regulators or inspectors, which will be a useful source of assurance (3.4.8.13.1).</p>	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the position in relation to the delivery of Audit Wales' work programme in relation to the fulfilment of the following duties; Audit the accounts, Value for money, The sustainable development principle.
- 1.2 An audit of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Accounts 2023-24 was carried out.
- 1.3 Review assurance and risk assessment by reviewing arrangements that the Council has put in place to ensure value for money in the use of its resources.
- 1.4 Unscheduled care – Audit Wales reviewed how partners work together to improve patient flow out of hospitals in the region.
- 1.5 Financial sustainability - the Council's financial sustainability was reviewed including a focus on the actions, plans and arrangements to bridge funding gaps and address financial pressures over the medium term.
- 1.6 The report provides a list of Audit Wales' national reports published in 2024 along with work in progress planned for 24-25.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee:

- Considers the report and notes the assurance it provides.

Isle of Anglesey County Council Annual Audit Summary 2024

Date Published: April 2025

This is our audit summary for Isle of Anglesey County Council. It shows the work completed since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in April 2024. Our audit summary forms part of the Auditor General for Wales' duties.



More information about these duties can be found on our [website](#).

About the Council

Some of the services the Council provides



Key facts

The Council is made up of 35 councillors who represent the following political parties:

- Plaid Cymru 20
- Anglesey Independents 8
- The Independent group 4
- Welsh Labour 3

The Council spent £184 million on providing services¹ during 2023-24².

¹ We define spending on services as the cost of services charged to the general fund from the Expenditure Funding Analysis, less any Housing Revenue Account cost of services, plus precepts, levies and debt interest.

² Source: 2023-24 Statement of Accounts

Key facts

As at 31 March 2024, the Council had £38 million of useable financial reserves³. This is equivalent to 21% of the Council's annual spending on services⁴.

Isle of Anglesey County has 2% of the most-deprived 10% of areas in Wales, this is the fourth lowest of the 22 unitary councils in Wales⁵.

Isle of Anglesey County's population is projected to decrease by 0.2% between 2024 and 2043 from 69,800 to 69,600, including a predicted 8% decrease in the number of children, a 7% decrease in the number of the working-age population and a 17% increase in the number of people aged 65 and over⁶.

The Auditor General's duties

We completed work during 2023-24 to meet the following duties

- **Audit of Accounts**

Each year, the Auditor General audits the Council's financial statements to make sure that public money is being properly accounted for.

- **Value for money**

The Auditor General examines whether the Council has put in place arrangements to get value for money for the resources it uses, and he has to be satisfied that it has done this.

- **Sustainable development principle**

Public bodies need to comply with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The Auditor General must assess the extent to which they are doing this.

³ We define useable financial reserves as reserves usable for revenue costs, where the purpose is not protected by law. This is the total of the general fund, earmarked reserves and schools' balances. It excludes Housing Revenue Account reserves, capital receipts and capital grants unapplied.

⁴ Source: 2023-24 Statement of Accounts

⁵ An area in this context is defined as a 'Lower Super Output Area'. Source: Stats Wales

⁶ Source: [Stats Wales, Population Projections](#)

What we found

Audit of Isle of Anglesey County Council's 2023-24 Accounts

Each year, we audit the Council's financial statements.



To meet the Auditor General's duties we complete specific projects, but we also rely on other audit work, and the work of regulators such as Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn (the education inspectorate). We take the findings of our audit work into account when assessing whether the Council has put in place arrangements to secure value for money. Our findings and conclusions are summarised below.

For 2023-24:

- the draft statements were presented for audit on 28 June 2024. This was before the deadline of 30 June 2024 set by the Welsh Government.
- the quality of the draft statements presented for audit was generally good.
- the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 4 December 2024, after the deadline agreed with the Welsh Government of 30 November 2024. Our audit work was completed ahead of the Welsh Government's deadline, the delay in certification was due to the Council's meeting schedule.
- the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements prepared by the Council and with our knowledge of the Council.
- a number of changes were made to the Council's financial statements arising from our audit work, which were reported to the Audit Committee in our Audit of Financial Statements Report in November 2024.
- in addition to the Auditor General's responsibilities for auditing the Council's financial statements, he also has responsibility for the certification of a number of grant claims and returns. At the time of our previous Annual Audit Summary, the testing on a number of Housing Benefit claims was ongoing; since then the 2021-22 and 2022-23 claims have been certified and the 2023-24 claim testing is ongoing.
- the Auditor General issued the certificate confirming that the audit of accounts for 2023-24 has been completed.

Assurance and risk assessment review

We reviewed the arrangements the Council has put in place to secure value for money in the use of its resources. We produced the following report from our assurance and risk assessment work:

- Setting of well-being objectives – we looked at the Council's approach to setting its well-being objectives. We found that the Council has applied the sustainable development principle in the process of setting its new well-being objectives, however, there are opportunities to strengthen the use of data and identify the required funding.

Unscheduled care

We reviewed how partners are collaborating to enhance patient flow out of hospitals in the region. Timely patient discharge has long been a challenge, not just locally but across Wales and beyond. We aimed to uncover how the region is tackling these issues and minimizing the risks associated with delays, which can significantly affect patient experiences and outcomes.

We found that while partners understand and show a commitment to improving patient flow out of hospital, performance remains extremely challenging with adverse effects for patient experience and care. Partners must continue to work individually and collaboratively to set and implement clear guidance, mitigate the challenges posed by reduced capacity and increased complexity of care, and ensure the impact of activities is continually monitored, challenged, and maximised.

We have made 16 recommendations to the Regional Partnership Board, some of which require joint working between the Council and its regional partners to achieve. These were in the areas of training, the monitoring of patients who are awaiting ongoing care upon discharge, improving the sharing of information and strengthening oversight of performance, including the use of the regional integration fund.

Financial sustainability

During 2024, we reviewed the council's financial sustainability including a focus on the actions, plans and arrangements to bridge funding gaps and address financial pressures over the medium term. We found that that the Council has good arrangements to respond to financial challenges in the short to medium term, but has not formalised the planning and oversight of its longer term financial sustainability.

National reports and products published in 2024

As well as local work at each council, each year, we also carry out studies across the local government sector to make recommendations for improving value for money. We published the following reports in 2024 which may be useful to the Council and can be found on our website.

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Local Government Financial Sustainability	December 2024
Local Government Financial Sustainability Data tool update now includes data from the draft 2023-24 accounts	December 2024
National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2022-23	October 2024
Active travel (report and data tool)	September 2024
Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities	September 2024
Affordable housing	September 2024
Digital by design? – Lessons from our digital strategy review across councils in Wales	August 2024
Councils' use of performance information: service user perspective and outcomes – A summary of findings from our review at Welsh councils	July 2024
Governance of National Park Authorities	April 2024
Supporting Ukrainians in Wales	March 2024
From firefighting to future-proofing – the challenge for Welsh public services	February 2024
Planning for sustainable development – Brownfield regeneration	January 2024

Planned work for 2024-25

We also looked at the key challenges and opportunities facing the Council. These could have an effect on the Council's ability to meet its legal obligations in relation to the sustainable development principle and the use of its resources.

Our planned work for 2024-25 includes:

- Assurance and risk assessment
- Local project work – Strategic Management of Balances and Reserves
- Local project work – Establishing a Port Health Authority

The Auditor General is independent of government and was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. The Auditor General undertakes his work using staff and other resources provided by the Wales Audit Office, which is a statutory board established for that purpose and to monitor and advise the Auditor General. The Wales Audit Office is held to account by the Senedd.

The Auditor General audits local government bodies in Wales, including unitary authorities, police, fire and rescue authorities, national parks, and community councils. He also conducts local government value for money studies, assesses compliance with the remaining requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and may undertake special inspections under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Beyond local government, the Auditor General is the external auditor of the Welsh Government and its sponsored and related public bodies, the Senedd Commission, and National Health Service bodies in Wales.

Audit Wales is the non-statutory collective name for the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office, which are separate legal entities with their own legal functions, as described above. Audit Wales is not a legal entity.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

This document is also available in Welsh.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date	8 May 2025
Subject	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Quarterly Update 31 December 2024
Head of Service	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author	Gwyndaf Parry Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager gwyndafparry@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
<p>Nature and Reason for Reporting</p> <p>The Governance and Audit Committee’s Terms of Reference require it to oversee the external audit arrangements (3.4.8.11.3) and oversee the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies (3.4.8.11.4). The Committee is also required to receive and consider reports from any other regulators or inspectors, which will be a useful source of assurance (3.4.8.13.1).</p>	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the status of the delivery of Audit Wales’s work programme with regards:
- the delivery of the Annual Audit Summary
 - financial audit work on the 2023-24 Statement of Accounts, which was completed in December 2024
 - ongoing Certification of Grant Returns (for 2022-23 and 2023-24), including Teachers’ Pension Contributions, Non-domestic Rates, and Housing Benefit Subsidy, completed by November 2024
 - 2022-23 performance audit work, including the Thematic Review of Unscheduled Care which was submitted to a special meeting of the Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 13 November 2024
 - 2023-24 performance audit work, which includes thematic reviews of Commissioning, which is at fieldwork stage, and Financial Sustainability, was submitted to the February 2025 meeting of the Committee. A local project; review of cyber security arrangements has been removed since this report was prepared.
 - For 2024-25, local project regarding the establishing a Port Health Authority is planned, along with ongoing work to assess the level of audit assurance required.

- 1.2 The update also provides an overview of the local government national studies that are planned and in progress and whether fieldwork is planned at the Isle of Anglesey County Council. Currently, there is confirmed fieldwork at the Council for the Capital Planning in Local Government national study.
- 1.3 Additionally, the report provides an overview of the work being undertaken by Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales across Wales. This does not detail any specific work relating to the Council.
- 1.4 The report provides a list of the Audit Wales national reports published in 2024, along with work in progress and planned.
- 1.5 Finally, the report provides the details of Good Practice Exchange events and resources.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee:
 - Considers the report and notes the assurance it provides.

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Isle of Anglesey County Council

Quarterly Update: 31 December 2024

Annual Audit Summary

Description	Timetable	Status
A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in February 2024.	February 2024	Report awaiting to be drafted.

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2023-24 Statement of Accounts	Statutory audit of the Council's Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024.	November 2024	Certified 4 December 2024
Audit of the Council's 24-25 statement of	Statutory audit of the Council's Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025.	October 2025	Audit work to be started
Certification of Grant Returns: Teachers' Pension Contributions for the financial year 2023-24	Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fairly stated • Is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions 	November 2024	Certified 25 November 2024

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Certification of Grant Returns: Non-Domestic Rates 2023-24	Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fairly stated • Is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions 	December 2025	Certified 5 December 2024
Certification of Grant Returns: Housing Benefit Subsidy 2022-23	Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fairly stated • Is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions 	February 2025	Audit work ongoing
Certification of Grant Returns: Housing Benefit Subsidy 2023-24	Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fairly stated • Is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions 	March 2025	Audit work ongoing

Performance Audit work

2023-24 Performance Audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Thematic review – commissioning	A review focusing on how councils' arrangements for commissioning, apply value for money considerations and the sustainable development principle.	March 2024– March 2025	Fieldwork completed. Report being drafted
Thematic review – Financial Sustainability	A review of councils' financial sustainability including a focus on the actions, plans and arrangements to bridge funding gaps and address financial pressures over the medium term.	March – December 2024	<p>To be presented to Governance and Audit Committee 11th February 2025</p> <p>Local Report issued November 2024</p> <p>National Report published December 2024</p>

2024-25 Performance Audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Assurance and Risk Assessment	Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources and acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle.	On-going	Fieldwork Ongoing and workshop scheduled in February 2025
Local project work – Review of Cyber Security Arrangements	A review of the arrangements that the Council's has in place to provide cyber security.	April – July 2025	Scoping
Local project work – Establishing a Port Health Authority	A review of the arrangements that the Council's has in place to establish a port health authority.	tbc	Scoping

Local government national studies planned/in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at the Isle of Anglesey County Council
Temporary Accommodation	Examining the costs, demand and how services are working together to progress the response to temporary accommodation.	Report publication planned for Spring 2025	Fieldwork underway Surveys have been issued to Heads of Housing and Section 151 Officers at each principal council.	Interviews at the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conwy • Pembrokeshire • Cardiff • Newport • Wrexham
Capital Planning in Local Government	Examining whether capital investment in the asset base in local government is able to keep pace with demand	Fieldwork January to April and report in Summer 2025	Scoping	Interviews planned at the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesey • Neath Port Talbot • Powys • Rhondda Cynon Taf • Swansea • Torfaen
Childrens' Services (Replacing Financial constraints / discretionary local government services)	Scoping underway with a likely focus on the costs and demand for services, and how councils and their partners are working to improve the value for money of services.	tbc	Scoping	tbc

Estyn

During the autumn term we inspected Newport LGES. We also carried out an inspection of the local authority's youth work. We identified strong practice in the provision in Newport, especially in areas relating to supporting school finances, many aspects of school improvement and ALN as well as their work in developing Welsh medium education. We highlighted the impact of strong leadership at the director level and her impact on the quality and delivery of the key functions relating to her role.

We carried out a monitoring visit of Torfaen LGES as part of our follow-up process for an authority causing significant concern. The visit evaluated their progress against the recommendations from the core inspection. We found that Torfaen LGES had made sufficient process in addressing key elements of the recommendations and was removed from follow-up. The key factor in securing the improvement has been the increase in leadership capacity at Chief executive and Director level which has had a substantial impact on securing important progress in relation to expectations, processes and delivery.

We carried out an enhanced link inspector visit to Denbighshire in October, which focused on specific aspects of attendance and additional learning needs.

During the spring term we will be carrying out an inspection of Powys LGES and youth work. We will undertake an enhanced link inspector visit to Bridgend which will focus on their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and their work on improving attendance. We will also contribute to CIW's joint inspection of child protection arrangements in Pembrokeshire and their follow-up work on a Rapid Review of safeguarding.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

	Scope	Timetable	Status
CIW planned work 2025-26 Thematic reviews			
Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT) Community Mental Health Inspections	In 2025-6 We will continue an annual programme of joint work focusing on CLDT and Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)		
Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements	Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements: Pembrokeshire	March 2025	Inspection Pending

	Scope	Timetable	Status
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Dols)	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2023-24	February 2025	Not yet published
Annual Report	Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2023-2024	November 2024	Published
Mental health support for children and young people	Joint Review: How are healthcare, education, and children's services supporting the mental health needs of children and young people in Wales?	November 2024	Published
Other Inspections Pending	Improvement Check: Denbighshire County Council children's services	February 2025	
	Performance Evaluation Inspection: Newport City Council adult services	February 2025	
Performance review of Local Authorities and Cafcass Cymru	How we inspect local authority services and CAF/CASS Cymru		
	We continue to inspect Local Authorities in line with our updated Code of Practice for our local authority inspection activity Care Inspectorate Wales We have revised our Code of Practice	November 2024	Published
Quarter 3 Inspections	Local authority improvement check: Isle of Anglesey County Council adult services	August 2024	Published

	Scope	Timetable	Status
	<u>Newtown Community Mental Health Team</u>	October 2024	Published
	<u>Local authority assurance check: Neath Port Talbot adult services</u>	November 2024	Published
	<u>Performance Evaluation Inspection (PEI): Carmarthenshire County Council's children's services</u>	December 2024	Published
	Assurance Check: Caerphilly County Borough Council adult services	November 2024	Not yet published
	Improvement Check: Cyngor Gwynedd adult services	October 2024	Not yet published

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published in 2024

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Cancer services in Wales	January 2025
Local Government Financial Sustainability	December 2024
Local Government Financial Sustainability Data tool update now includes data from the draft 2023-24 accounts	December 2024
National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2022-23	October 2024
Active travel (report and data tool)	September 2024
Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities	September 2024
Affordable housing	September 2024
NHS finances – and data tool update to 31 March 2024	August 2024
Digital by design? - Lessons from our digital strategy review across councils in Wales	August 2024
Councils use of performance information: service user perspective and outcomes - A summary of findings from our review at Welsh councils	July 2024
The Welsh Government's support for TVR Automotive Ltd	July 2024
A465 Section 2 – update	June 2024
Community Pharmacy data matching pilot	May 2024
Governance of National Park Authorities	April 2024

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Supporting Ukrainians in Wales	March 2024
From firefighting to future-proofing – the challenge for Welsh public services	February 2024
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – board effectiveness follow up	February 2024
Local Government Financial Sustainability Data tool update uses data from the draft 2022-23 accounts	January 2024
Planning for sustainable development – Brownfield regeneration	January 2024

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress / planned)^{1, 2}

Title	Indicative publication date
NHS workforce planning (national messages)	February 2025
Financial management and governance in town and community councils	February 2025
Addressing biodiversity decline (pan-public sector and at Natural Resources Wales)	Pan-public sector review – February 2025 NRW – Spring 2025
Challenges for the cultural sector (financial sustainability focus)	February 2025 (completion of local reporting) – decision on any national messaging tbc
Findings from GP registration data matching pilot	March 2025
Further and higher education funding and oversight – Commission for Tertiary Education and Research	By March 2025 (for initial phase of work on setting of well-being objectives)
Findings from sustainable development examinations (statutory report under the WFG Act)	Late April 2025
Welsh Government capital and infrastructure investment	Spring 2025
Unscheduled care (national messages)	Spring 2025

¹ We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. Follow up work could also lead to other outputs, as may other investigative audit work and local audit work where we consider there is merit in a national summary output of some kind.

² Our [Interim Report 2024-25](#) also lists work in progress or work planned to start during 2024-25. Our [work programme for 2023-2026](#) –also provides some additional detail about certain topics and will continue to inform our work programme planning for 2025-26.

Title	Indicative publication date
New Velindre Cancer Centre	Summer 2025
The senior public service	To be confirmed (scoping)
Rebalancing care and support	To be confirmed (scoping)
Tackling NHS waiting lists (local audit work at health boards)	To be confirmed (local work at each Health Board started in May 2024)
Access to education for children with Additional Learning Needs	To be confirmed (scoping)
Support for business	To be confirmed (scoping)
Support for bus and rail services	To be confirmed (scoping)
Progress with investment in school and college buildings through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme	To be confirmed (scoping)
NHS bodies' approaches to digital transformation (local audit work)	To be confirmed (local audit work rolling out from October 2024)
NHS bodies' cost savings arrangements	To be confirmed (local audit reporting nearing completion)

Good Practice Exchange events and resources

Title	Link to resource
Event: From firefighting to future-proofing: The cost of failure in financial management and governance - 30 January 2025 – 10:00 – 16:00 – Cardiff City Stadium	Registration link: www.audit.wales/events/south-wales-firefighting-future-proofing-cost-failure-governance-and-financial-management

Title	Link to resource
<p>Event: From firefighting to future-proofing: The cost of failure in financial management and governance - 13 February 2025 – 10:00 – 16:00 – Optic Centre, St Asaph</p>	<p>Registration link: www.audit.wales/events/north-wales-firefighting-future-proofing-cost-failure-governance-and-financial-management</p>
<p>GPX Blog: Flintshire County Council Homelessness Service</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/9/23/good-practice-exchange-flintshire-county-council-homelessness-services</p>
<p>GPX Blog: How volunteers are supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/10/21/good-practice-exchange-how-volunteers-are-supporting-people-experiencing-or</p>
<p>GPX Blog: The Wrexham and Flintshire Inspire Project</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/11/6/good-practice-exchange-flintshire-and-wrexham-inspire-project</p>
<p>GPX Blog: Arts, Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/11/12/good-practice-exchange-arts-health-and-wellbeing</p>
<p>GPX Blog: Medrwn Mon Place Shaping Project</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/11/22/good-practice-exchange-medrwn-mon-place-shaping-project</p>
<p>GPX Blog: Nature and Us</p>	<p>www.audit.wales/blog/gpx/2024/11/29/good-practice-exchange-nature-and-us</p>

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date	8 May 2025
Subject	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Quarterly Update 31 March 2025
Head of Service	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author	Gwyndaf Parry Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager gwyndafparry@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Nature and Reason for Reporting The Governance and Audit Committee’s Terms of Reference require it to oversee the external audit arrangements (3.4.8.11.3) and oversee the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies (3.4.8.11.4). The Committee is also required to receive and consider reports from any other regulators or inspectors, which will be a useful source of assurance (3.4.8.13.1).	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the status of the delivery of Audit Wales’s work programme with regards:
- the delivery of the Annual Audit Summary
 - financial audit work on the 2024-25 Statement of Accounts, will be completed July to October 2025
 - 2023-24 performance audit work, which includes thematic reviews of Commissioning, focusing on how councils’ arrangements for commissioning services; March 2024 to March 2025.
 - For 2024-25, local project regarding the establishing a Port Health Authority are planned, along with ongoing work to assess the level of audit assurance required.
- 1.2 The Update also provides an overview of the local government national studies that are planned and in progress and whether fieldwork is planned at the Isle of Anglesey County Council. There is confirmed fieldwork at the Council for the Capital Planning in Local Government national study.
- 1.3 Additionally, the report provides an overview of the work being undertaken by Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales across Wales. This does not detail any specific work relating to the Council.

- 1.4 The report provides a list of the Audit Wales national reports published in 2024, along with work in progress and planned.
- 1.5 Finally, the report provides the details of Good Practice Exchange events and resources.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee:
 - Considers the report and notes the assurance it provides.

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Isle of Anglesey County Council

Quarterly Update: 31 March 2025

Annual Audit Summary

Description	Timetable	Status
A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in February 2024.	April 2025	Draft Audit Summary issued to the Council.

Financial Audit work

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Audit of the Council's 2024-25 Statement of Accounts	We will complete the Statutory audit of the Council's Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statements	July to October 2025	Audit planning work has commenced.
Certification of Grant Returns: Housing Benefit Subsidy 2022-23	Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not fairly stated; • is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. 	Complete	The Grant Return was certified in February 2025.

Description	Scope	Timetable	Status
Certification of Grant Returns: Housing Benefit Subsidy 2023-24	<p>Certification that nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the return is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not fairly stated; • is not in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. 	August 2025	Audit work on the 2023-24 subsidy claim is well progressed, with the intention to complete by August 2025.

Performance Audit work

2023-24 Performance Audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Thematic review – commissioning	A review focusing on how councils' arrangements for commissioning, apply value for money considerations and the sustainable development principle.	March 2024 to March 2025	Fieldwork completed. Report being drafted.
Thematic review – Financial Sustainability	A review of councils' financial sustainability including a focus on the actions, plans and arrangements to bridge funding gaps and address financial pressures over the medium term.	March to July 2024	Completed Presented to Governance and Audit Committee 11 February 2025.

2024-25 Performance Audit work	Scope	Timetable	Status
Assurance and Risk Assessment	Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources and acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle.	On-going	Workshop held in February 2025. Fieldwork ongoing.
Local project work – Strategic Management of Balances and Reserves	A review of the arrangements that the Council has in place to strategically manage balances and reserves.	April to July 2025	Scoping
Local project work – Establishing a Port Health Authority	A review of the arrangements that the Council has in place to establish a port health authority.	To be confirmed	Scoping

Local government national studies planned/in progress

Study	Scope	Timetable	Status	Fieldwork planned at Isle of Anglesey County Council
Temporary Accommodation	Examining the costs, demand and how services are working together to progress the response to temporary accommodation.	Report publication planned for summer 2025	Fieldwork underway Surveys have been issued to Heads of Housing and Section 151 Officers at each principal council.	Interviews at the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conwy • Pembrokeshire • Cardiff • Newport • Wrexham
Capital Planning in Local Government	Examining whether capital investment in the asset base in local government is able to keep pace with demand.	Fieldwork January to April and report in Summer 2025	Fieldwork underway.	Interviews at the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesey • Neath Port Talbot • Powys • Rhondda Cynon Taf • Swansea • Torfaen
Childrens' Services (Replacing Financial constraints/ discretionary local government services)	Scoping underway with a likely focus on the costs and demand for services, and how councils and their partners are working to improve the value for money of services.	To be confirmed	Scoping	To be confirmed

Estyn

During the autumn term, we inspected Newport LGES. We also carried out an inspection of the local authority's youth work. We identified strong practice in the provision in Newport, especially in areas relating to supporting school finances, many aspects of school improvement and ALN as well as their work in developing Welsh-medium education. We highlighted the impact of strong leadership at the director level and her impact on the quality and delivery of the key functions relating to her role.

We carried out a monitoring visit of Torfaen LGES as part of our follow-up process for an authority causing significant concern. The visit evaluated their progress against the recommendations from the core inspection. We found that Torfaen LGES had made sufficient progress in addressing key elements of the recommendations and was removed from follow-up. The key factor in securing the improvement has been the increase in leadership capacity at Chief Executive and Director level which has had a substantial impact on securing important progress in relation to expectations, processes and delivery.

We carried out an enhanced link inspector visit to Denbighshire in October, which focused on specific aspects of attendance and additional learning needs.

During the spring term, we carried out an inspection of Powys LGES and youth work. We judged that Powys LGES requires significant improvement and will therefore require monitoring by Estyn. The Youth Service at Powys is generally strong.

We undertook an enhanced link inspector visit to Bridgend which focused on their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and their work on improving attendance. We also contributed to CIW's joint inspection of child protection arrangements in Pembrokeshire and their follow-up work on a Rapid Review of safeguarding.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

	Scope	Timetable	Status
CIW planned work 2025-26 Thematic reviews – Regional Adoption Collaborative (RAC) Inspections	CIW will complete five inspections covering all of Wales. Inspections will be conducted across the five regional adoption collaboratives: we will draw on the themes nationally into a national report.	April 2025 – December 2025	Inspections pending
Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT) Community Mental Health Inspections	In 2025-26, we will continue an annual programme of joint work focusing on CLDT and Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	July 2025 – February 2026	Inspections pending
Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements	Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements: Pembrokeshire	March 2025	Inspection delivery
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Dols)	<u>National review of the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in Wales 2023-24</u> Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2023-24	February 2025	Published
Annual Report	<u>Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2023-2024</u>	November 2024	Published
Mental health support for children and young people	<u>Joint Review: How are healthcare, education, and children's services supporting the mental health needs of children and young people in Wales?</u>	November 2024	Published

	Scope	Timetable	Status
Quarter 4 Inspections	Improvement Check: Denbighshire County Council children's services	February 2025	Not yet published
	Performance Evaluation Inspection: Newport City Council adult services	February 2025	Not yet published
	Cardiff Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	March 2025	Inspection pending
	Local Authority Improvement Check: Monmouthshire County Council	March 2025	Inspection pending
Performance review of Local Authorities and Cafcass Cymru	<u>How we inspect local authority services and CAFCASS Cymru</u>		
	We continue to inspect Local Authorities in line with our updated Code of Practice for our local authority inspection activity. <u>We have revised our Code of Practice</u>	November 2024	Published
Quarter 3 Inspections	<u>Local authority improvement check: Isle of Anglesey County Council adult services</u>	August 2024	Published
	<u>Newtown Community Mental Health Team</u>	October 2024	Published

	Scope	Timetable	Status
	<u>Local authority assurance check: Neath Port Talbot adult services</u>	November 2024	Published
	<u>Performance Evaluation Inspection (PEI): Carmarthenshire County Council's children's services</u>	December 2024	Published
	<u>Local authority assurance check letter: Caerphilly adult services</u>	November 2024	Published
	<u>Local authority improvement check letter: Cyngor Gwynedd adult services</u>	October 2024	Published

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published in the last year

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Financial Management and Governance – Lessons from Audit for Community and Town Councils in Wales	March 2025
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty	March 2025
Addressing workforce challenges in NHS Wales	February 2025
Cancer services in Wales	January 2025
Local Government Financial Sustainability	December 2024
Local Government Financial Sustainability Data tool update now includes data from the draft 2023-24 accounts	December 2024
National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2022-23	October 2024
Active travel (report and data tool)	September 2024
Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities	September 2024
Affordable housing	September 2024
NHS finances – and data tool update to 31 March 2024	August 2024
Digital by design? – Lessons from our digital strategy review across councils in Wales	August 2024

Report title	Publication date and link to report
Councils use of performance information: service user perspective and outcomes – A summary of findings from our review at Welsh councils	July 2024
The Welsh Government's support for TVR Automotive Ltd	July 2024
A465 Section 2 – update	June 2024
Community Pharmacy data matching pilot	May 2024
Governance of National Park Authorities	April 2024

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress/planned)^{1, 2}

Title	Indicative publication date
Findings from sustainable development examinations (statutory report under the Well-being of Future Generations Act)	Late April 2025
Welsh Government capital and infrastructure investment	May 2025
Designating Sites of Special Scientific Interest – Natural Resources Wales	Spring 2025 (aim to complete during Spring but may not be published on website until later)
Challenges for the cultural sector (financial sustainability focus)	Spring 2025 (local audit work at Welsh Government arm’s length bodies largely complete but reports will be published on website)
Findings from GP registration data matching pilot	Spring 2025
Further and higher education funding and oversight – Commission for Tertiary Education and Research	Spring 2025 (for initial phase of work on setting of well-being objectives – further work to follow)

¹ We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. Follow-up work could also lead to other outputs, as may other investigative audit work and local audit work, where we consider there is merit in a national summary output of some kind.

² Our [Annual Plan 2025-26](#) also provides an updated list of work in progress and lists plans for new work to start during 2025-26 which will be added to this paper in due course. Where national/thematic work has progressed through the planning stage, a brief summary about its focus and planned timetable is also now available on our [website work programme pages](#).

Title	Indicative publication date
Urgent and emergency care (national messages)	Spring 2025
New Velindre Cancer Centre	Summer 2025
The senior public service	To be confirmed (scoping)
Rebalancing care and support	Autumn 2025
Tackling NHS waiting lists (local audit work at health boards)	Autumn 2025 (local work to be completed by June 2025)
Access to education for children with Additional Learning Needs	To be confirmed (scoping)
Support for business	To be confirmed (scoping)
Support for bus and rail services	To be confirmed (scoping)
Progress with investment in school and college buildings through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme	To be confirmed (scoping)
NHS bodies' approaches to digital transformation (local audit work)	To be confirmed (local audit work rolling out from April 2025)
NHS bodies' cost savings arrangements	Spring 2025 (local audit reporting complete)

Good Practice Exchange events and resources

Title	Link to resource
<p>Event resources: From firefighting to future-proofing: The cost of failure in financial management and governance</p>	<p><u>The cost of failure in financial management and governance</u></p>
<p>We are in the process of finalising dates for our forthcoming events which will include the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling fraud and error • The complex public service landscape • The workforce of the future • Upping the bandwidth on digital transformation • Zeroing in on the sustainable development principle • Putting value for money to the test 	<p>We will share booking details shortly.</p>
<p>Podcast: Listen to our new podcast episode on avoiding failure in financial management and governance</p>	<p><u>Podcast: The Cost of Failure in Governance</u></p>

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date	8 May 2025
Subject	Review of Forward Work Programme for 2025-26
Head of Service	Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales
Report Author	Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales
Nature and Reason for Reporting A Forward Work Programme for 2025-26 is provided to the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to assist them in fulfilling the Committee's Terms of Reference.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A forward work programme is attached at [Appendix A](#), along with a development programme at [Appendix B](#).
- 1.2 The programme has been developed considering the Committee's terms of reference and its responsibilities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee:
 - considers whether the Forward Work Programme proposed for 2025-26 meets the Committee's responsibilities in accordance with its terms of reference.

Appendix A – Forward Work Programme 2025-26 v1

Core Function	26 June 2025	16 July 2025	30 September 2025	October 2025 ¹	4 December 2025	3 February 2026	April/May 2026
Composition and arrangements (3.4.8.2)							Annual Review of Committee's Terms of Reference (3.4.8.2.1) Private meeting with internal and external audit without officers present (3.4.8.2.6) (3.4.8.10.15) (3.4.8.11.5)
Accountability arrangements (3.4.8.3)	Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2025-26 (3.4.8.3.2) Annual Chair's Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.3.1/2)	Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2025-26 (3.4.8.3.2)	Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2025-26 (3.4.8.3.2)		Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2025-26 (3.4.8.3.2)	Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2025-26 (3.4.8.3.2)	Action Log Review of Forward Work Programme 2026-27 (3.4.8.3.2)
Governance (3.4.8.4)	Annual Scrutiny Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.4.4)	Draft Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 (3.4.8.4.1/2/3) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3) (3.4.8.8.2)		Final Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 (3.4.8.4.1/2/3) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3) (3.4.8.8.2)			

¹ Special meeting for Statement of Accounts

Core Function	26 June 2025	16 July 2025	30 September 2025	October 2025 ¹	4 December 2025	3 February 2026	April/May 2026
Treasury Management (3.4.8.5)			Annual Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.5.1/2/3/4)		Mid-year Report (3.4.8.5.3)	Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2026-27 (3.4.8.5.1/3/4)	
Value for money (3.4.8.6)	<i>Annual Internal Audit Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.10.6/7/8/9/12/14/15) (3.4.8.6.3)</i>	<i>Draft Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 (3.4.8.4.1/2/3) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)</i> <i>Draft Statement of Accounts 2024-25 (3.4.8.12.1/2) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)</i>		<i>Final Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 (3.4.8.4.1/2/3) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)</i> <i>Final Statement of Accounts 2024-25 (3.4.8.12.1/2) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)</i> <i>Audit of Accounts Report (3.4.8.11.2/3) (3.4.8.6.3)</i>		<i>Annual Audit Summary 2025 (3.4.8.11.2/3) (3.4.8.6.3)</i>	
Assurance Framework (3.4.8.7)		Annual Information Governance (SIRO) Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.7.1/2/3)	Annual Health & Safety Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.7.1/2/3)		Annual Information Governance in Schools Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.7.1/2/3) Annual ICT Security Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.7.1/2/3)		
Risk Management (3.4.8.8)			Annual Review of Risk Management Framework (3.4.8.7.1/2)		Managing the Risks of Climate Change and Becoming Net		

Core Function	26 June 2025	16 July 2025	30 September 2025	October 2025 ¹	4 December 2025	3 February 2026	April/May 2026
			(3.4.8.8.1) Strategic Risk Register Update (3.4.8.7.1/2) (3.4.8.8.1)		Zero Update (3.4.8.8.3)		
Countering Fraud and Corruption (3.4.8.9)		<i>Annual Concerns, Complaints & Whistleblowing Report 2024-25</i> (3.4.8.9.1) (3.4.8.14.2)	Annual Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.9.4/5/6) National Fraud Initiative 2024-26 Outcomes – Progress Report (3.4.8.9.6)				
Internal Audit (3.4.8.10)	Annual Internal Audit Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.10.5/6/7/8/11/14/15) (3.4.8.6.3) Internal Assessment of Conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2024-25 (3.4.8.10.1/8/11/13)	Internal Audit Update Report (3.4.8.10.9/10) (3.4.8.6.3) Gap analysis of conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector (3.4.8.10.1/2/8/11/13)	Internal Audit Update Report (3.4.8.10.9/10) (3.4.8.6.3) Outstanding Issues / Risks / Opportunities (3.4.8.10.9/10)		Internal Audit Update Report (3.4.8.10.9/10) (3.4.8.6.3)	Internal Audit Update Report (3.4.8.10.9/10) (3.4.8.6.3)	Internal Audit Update Report (3.4.8.10.9/10) (3.4.8.6.3) Outstanding Issues / Risks / Opportunities (3.4.8.10.11)

Core Function	26 June 2025	16 July 2025	30 September 2025	October 2025 ¹	4 December 2025	3 February 2026	April/May 2026
	Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2025-26 (3.4.8.10.1/2/4/5) Review of Internal Audit Charter (3.4.8.10.2/12)						
External Audit (3.4.8.11)	Annual Audit Plan 2025 (3.4.8.11.1/3)		Work Programme and Timetable - Quarterly Update (Q1 2025) (3.4.8.11.2/3)	Audit of Accounts Report (3.4.8.11.2/3) (3.4.8.6.3) (3.4.8.12.4)	Work Programme and Timetable - Quarterly Update (Q2 2025) (3.4.8.11.2/3)	Work Programme and Timetable - Quarterly Update (Q3 2025) (3.4.8.11.2/3) Annual Audit Summary 2025 (3.4.8.11.1/2/3) (3.4.8.6.3)	Work Programme and Timetable - Quarterly Update (Q4 2025) (3.4.8.11.2/3)
Financial Reporting (3.4.8.12)		Draft Statement of Accounts 2024-25 (3.4.8.12.1/2/3/5) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)		Final Statement of Accounts 2024-25 (3.4.8.12.1/2/3/5) (3.4.8.6.1/2/3)			
Other regulators and inspectors (3.4.8.13)					National Reviews and their Related Recommendation (3.4.8.11.3) (3.4.8.13.1)		

Core Function	26 June 2025	16 July 2025	30 September 2025	October 2025 ¹	4 December 2025	3 February 2026	April/May 2026
Complaints Handling (3.4.8.14)		Annual Concerns, Complaints & Whistleblowing Report 2024-25 (3.4.8.14.1/2)			Annual Letter of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 2024-25 (3.4.8.14.1)		
Self-assessment (3.4.8.15)		Review of the Draft Annual Corporate Self-assessment report 2024-5 (3.4.8.15.1/2/3)					
Panel Performance Assessment (3.4.8.16) ²		Review of the Panel Performance Assessment Scoping Document (3.4.8.16.1)					
Auditor General Special Inspection (3.4.8.17) ³							

² At least once during an electoral cycle a panel performance assessment will take place in the period between ordinary elections of councillors to the council. The council may choose to commission more than one panel assessment in an electoral cycle, but it is not a requirement of the legislation. (The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021). The council must make a draft of its response to the panel performance assessment available to its Governance and Audit committee, which must then review the draft response and may make recommendations for changes to the response to the panel assessment.

³ If the Auditor General carries out a special inspection (as it considers the Council is not, or may not, be meeting its performance requirements, and a report is sent to Council, as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving such report, the Council must make it available to the Governance and Audit Committee.

Appendix B – Development Programme (3.4.8.2.10)

Committee-specific training

Area	Date last provided	Medium	Provider	Date provided / scheduled	Attendance
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Risk Mitigation	Not applicable	Briefing Session	Mathew Henshaw, Chief Digital Officer	11/02/25	
Understanding Local Authority Accounts for Councillors	June 2023 August 2023				
Treasury Management (3.4.8.5.2)	September 2023				
Effective Chairing Skills	October 2023				
Countering Fraud and Corruption	December 2023				
Risk Management	March 2024				

Committee-specific briefings

Title	Area	Medium	Provider	Date Provided
Audit Committee Update – Issue 40: New Internal Audit Standards	Forthcoming changes to the internal audit standards and how that will impact on audit committee members.	Newsletter	Internal / CIPFA	24/12/24
Audit Committee Update – Issue 42: Governance of Internal Audit	The new Code of Practice on the Governance of Internal Audit that comes into effect from 1 April 2025.	Newsletter	Internal / CIPFA	17/04/25

Mandatory training

Area	Medium	Provider	Date Provided / Scheduled
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)	eLearning	Internal	Available any time
Cyber Ninjas for Councillors	eLearning	Internal	Available any time
Basic Safeguarding Awareness (Group A)	eLearning	Internal	Available any time
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (optional for lay members)	eLearning	Internal	Available any time
Prevent (optional for lay members)	eLearning	Internal	Available any time
Modern Slavery (optional for lay members)	eLearning	Internal	Available any time

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