

COMMITTEE	Governance and Audit Committee
DATE	3 rd February 2026
TITLE	Arrangements for the Commissioning of Services – Gwynedd Council
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To update the Committee on the recently published report(s) by Audit Wales on the Council's Commissioning arrangements
ACTION	Members are asked to accept the report
AUTHOR	Arwel Evans, Procurement Manager

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Governance and Audit Committee has a function to review and assess the Council's risk management, internal control, performance management and corporate governance arrangements and as part of this function there is an expectation to consider the reports of external review bodies such as Audit Wales, Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

1.2. As well as considering reports in practice, committees are expected to assure themselves that arrangements are in place to monitor and evaluate progress against any recommendations contained therein.

1.3. A copy of **the report 'Arrangements for the Commissioning of Services – Gwynedd Council'** is included as **Appendix 1** with an organisational response document included as **Appendix 2** outlining what we as a Council intend to do to respond to the recommendations within the report.

1.4 It does not appear that there is any specific legislation regarding commissioning other than the well-being act that is specific to the Care sector. The Well-being of Future Generations Act sets out a general legal framework for how to design services.

1.5 Audit Wales do not provide sources of best practice or recommend standard guidance to follow in the field of commissioning.

2. METHOD OF THE AUDIT

2.1 Audit Wales noted that the objective of the audit was to find out when commissioning services, is the Council putting in place appropriate arrangements to ensure value for money in the way it uses its resources?

2.2 Criteria in Appendix 1 were used to conclude this by reviewing examples of the Council's work in the following areas:

2.3 The sample of service areas that we reviewed in the Council were:

- Adult Advocacy Service;
- Snowdon Sherpa bus network; and also
- Byw'n Iach Leisure Centres.

2.4 This audit did not include a review of the Council's procurement arrangements nor contract management arrangements.

3. FINDINGS OF THE AUDIT

3.1 Overall, the Auditor found that the Council cannot demonstrate that it achieves value for money as a matter of routine through its commissioned services. A summary of the main reasons why they came to this conclusion has been set out below:

- There is no systematic order across the Council. (Ref. 16)
- Lack of consideration and assessment of full commissioning options. (Ref. 17)
- Lack of use of information and data to make decisions. (Ref. 18)
- Lack of long-term resource planning (Reference 19&20)
- Lack of monitoring arrangements (Reference 21)
- Lack of a wider impact assessment on other services (Reference 22)
- Lack of involvement of partners and wider stakeholders (Reference 23&24)
- Lack of review of commissioning approach for improvement and learning (Reference 25)

4. RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT

4.1 The auditor made the following recommendations:

- Establish consistent commissioning arrangements
- Embedding arrangements across the Council

4.2 We have drafted a response form to the recommendations and the Council's **Corporate Commissioning Guidance has been attached in Appendix 3**. We will also look to review our impact assessment to incorporate any changes that are needed.

Attachments

Appendix 1 - Arrangements for the Commissioning of Services – Gwynedd Council

Appendix 2 – Gwynedd Commissioning Arrangements Managerial Response Form

Appendix 3 - The Council's Corporate Commissioning Guidance