

COMMITTEE	GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE	3 FEBRUARY 2026
TITLE	INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2026/2027
PURPOSE	TO PRESENT THE INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND ANNUAL PLAN TO THE COMMITTEE
AUTHOR	LUNED FÔN JONES, AUDIT MANAGER
ACTION	TO APPROVE THE STRATEGY AND ANNUAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The proposed Internal Audit Strategy and Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27 is attached for review and consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

Internal Audit Strategy

- 2.1 Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), specifically Standard 9.2 “Internal Audit Strategy” stipulates that the chief audit executive¹ must develop and implement a strategy for the internal audit function that supports the strategic objectives and success of the organisation. A new Internal Audit Strategy has been developed which aligns the key priorities, objectives and strategic risks faced by the Council into the work of the internal audit function over the next three years. This helps to provide strategic direction to the internal audit function and support the Council in its approach to delivering its key objectives and allocates internal audit resources appropriately.
- 2.2 The Standard states that the internal audit strategy must include a vision, strategic objectives, and supporting initiatives for the internal audit function. The internal audit strategy helps guide the internal audit function toward the fulfilment of the internal audit mandate.

Internal Audit Plan

- 2.3 Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), Standard 9.4 “Internal Audit Plan” states that the chief audit executive must create an internal audit plan that supports the achievements of the organisation’s objectives.

¹ Audit Manager

- 2.4 The Internal Audit Plan is based on an assessment of the Cyngor Gwynedd's strategies, objectives and risks.
- 2.2 The risk-based plan takes into account the requirement to produce an annual report, including the annual conclusion on governance, risk management and control, and internal audit's performance against its objectives. (The Code)
- 2.3 For internal audit to remain relevant, it must adapt to changing expectations and maintain alignment with the Council's objectives. The Internal Audit Strategy is fundamental to remaining relevant — playing an important role in achieving a balance between cost and value, while making meaningful contributions to the Council's overall governance, risk management, and internal controls.
- 2.4 A systematic and structured process was used to develop the Internal Audit plan, helping to enable the Internal Audit Service to achieve its vision and mission.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to receive and approve the contents of the Internal Audit Strategy and the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/2027, to approve it, and support Internal Audit in its undertakings.