Audit of Accounts Report – North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Audit year: 2025-26

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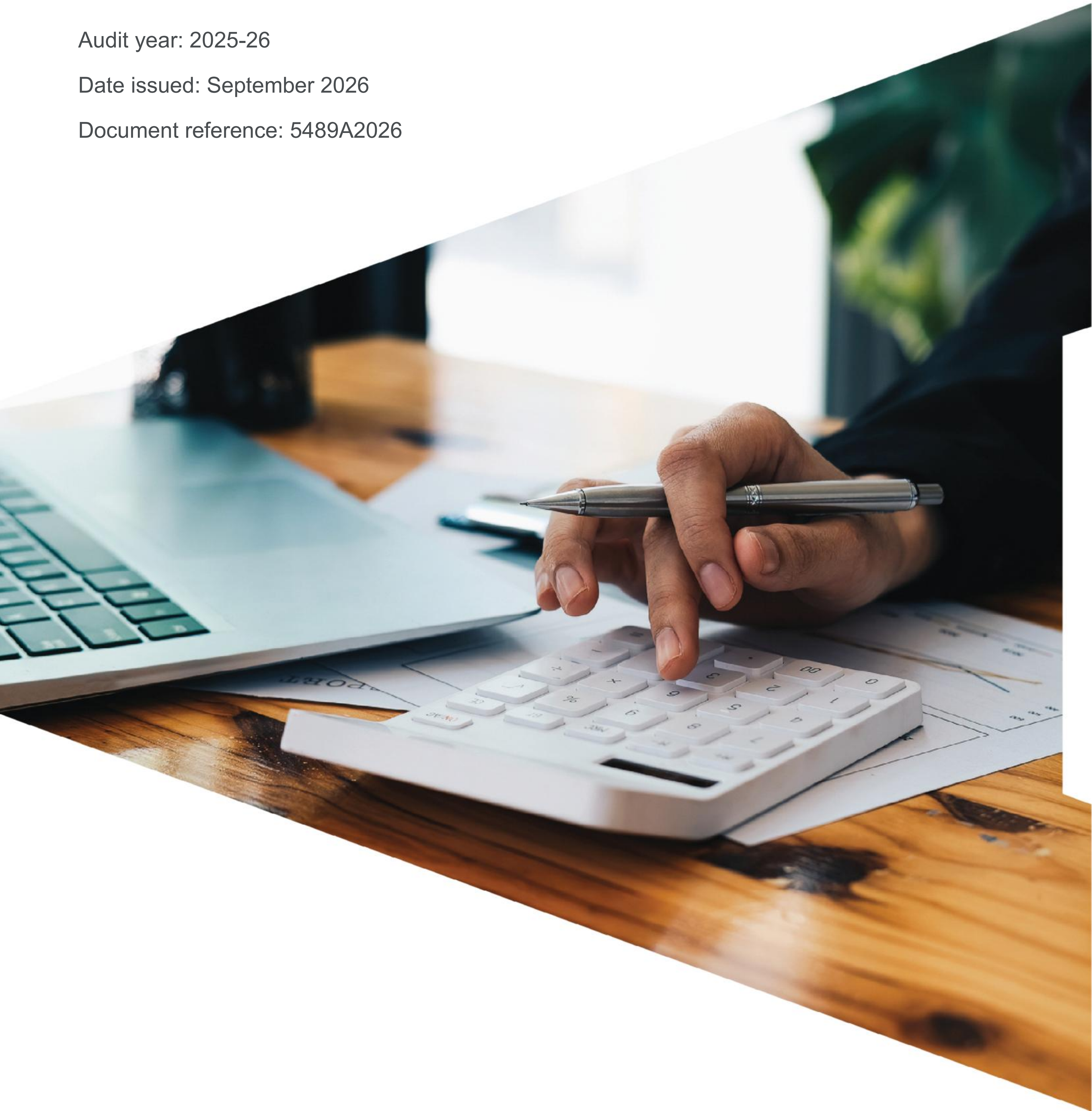

Contents

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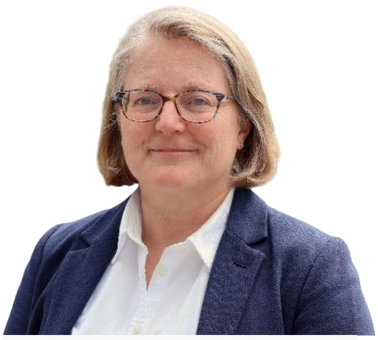
We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae’r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

Introduction



Catherine Mealing-Jones

Auditor General for Wales

As the newly appointed Auditor General for Wales, I am pleased to share my Audit of Accounts Report. The Report summarises the main findings from my audit of your 2025-26 accounts. My team have already discussed these findings with the Assistant Head of Finance (Sustainability and Developments).

My team have substantially completed the audit work as set out in my Audit Plan dated May 2026. The remaining tasks involve:

- Annual Governance Statement;
- Related Parties;
- Concluding the review of the audit file; and
- Completion of final audit procedure steps.

Since my Audit Plan, I have updated materiality to reflect the 2025-26 accounts. I have not identified any new audit risks. My response to previously identified risks is set out in **Appendix 1.**

I am required to provide an opinion on whether the accounts have been properly prepared, and give a true and fair view, in all material aspects My proposed audit opinion and basis for it is outlined on page 20.

It is the responsibility of the those charged with governance, i.e. the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the North Wales CJC) to address any matters raised in my report and provide me with a Letter of Representation.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the officers and staff for their cooperation throughout the audit process which has been invaluable in completing this audit effectively.

Your audit at a glance

We intend to issue an **unqualified opinion** on the accounts.

See **Appendix 4**

There are **other matters** to report.

See **Audit findings**

There are no **uncorrected misstatements** in the accounts.

See **Audit findings**

Recommendations arising from our work will be set out in an Accounts Memorandum which will be communicated with officers in due course.

We are aiming to certify your accounts on **29 September 2026**, in line with the deadline of 30 September 2026.

Materiality

I use professional judgement to set a materiality threshold to identify and correct misstatements that could affect users' decisions, considering both financial errors and disclosure requirements according to the applicable accounting framework and laws. My team updates materiality throughout the audit and I include in this report matters that exceed my reporting threshold, as set out below:

Materiality	Reporting threshold (trivial)
Set at 1% of gross assets based upon the 2025-26 draft financial statements	Set at 5% of materiality
£888,000	**£44,000**

In the Audit Plan, materiality was provisionally determined using prior year gross expenditure of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board as the most appropriate basis. Following our review of the draft financial statements, we reassessed this approach and concluded that gross assets now provides a more appropriate basis. This reflects the increasing significance of the North Wales CJC's balance sheet as the organisation continues to develop and enters into more complex arrangements. Accordingly, materiality was set at 1% of gross assets.

There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the user of the accounts. We confirm lower materiality levels for these:

Remuneration report	Related party disclosures
£1,000	£10,000

Audit Findings

Misstatements

A misstatement arises where information in the accounts is not in accordance with accounting standards.

Corrected misstatements

During our audit, we identified misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention.

These are set out in **Appendix 2**.

Other significant issues

International Standard on Auditing 260 requires us to communicate with those charged with governance. We must tell you significant findings from the audit and other matters if they are significant to your oversight of the North Wales CJC's financial reporting process.

There were no such issues identified during the audit

Other issues

My audit plan presented to the Governance and Audit Committee in June 2026 included an estimated audit fee of £34,832 for the audit of the financial statements. As this was the first year that the North Wales CJC prepared a full set of financial statements following the transfer of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board arrangements on 1 April 2025, the audit involved more work than originally anticipated. Additional work was required to understand and evaluate the new governance arrangements, reporting requirements, accounting treatments, and the opening balances transferred to the CJC. Consequently, the complexity of the audit increased the level of audit input required beyond that envisaged when the original fee estimate was set. My team will discuss the additional costs incurred with the Statutory Finance Officer before agreeing the final audit fee.

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was not provided alongside the draft financial statements and was submitted at a late stage of the audit process. This created additional resourcing and timetable pressures in completing the necessary audit work on the AGS before the North Wales CJC's consideration of the financial statements. While we recognise that 2025-26 was the first year in which the North Wales CJC prepared a full set of financial statements and that new reporting processes were being established, we would expect the AGS to be prepared and submitted alongside the draft accounts in future years to support a timely and efficient audit.

During the audit, we identified uncertainty regarding the accounting treatment of the collaborative agreement with Welsh Government for Parc Bryn Cegin. We sought clarification from Welsh Government on the appropriate accounting treatment; however, a response had not been received before completion of our audit work. Consequently, we were unable to conclude fully on whether the treatment adopted by the CJC is appropriate. While any potential impact is not expected to be material to the 2025-26 financial statements, we draw this matter to the attention of those charged with governance for consideration as the arrangement develops in future years.

Proposed audit opinion

Audit opinion

We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year’s accounts once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation (see below).

Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 3**.

Letter of representation

A Letter of Representation is a formal letter in which you confirm to us the accuracy and completeness of information provided to us during the audit. Some of this information is required by auditing standards; other information may relate specifically to your audit.

The letter we are requesting you to sign is included in **Appendix 4,** the contents of which are in line with our standard request for representations.

Audit team and ethical compliance

The main members of my team who carried out the audit work, together with their contact details, are summarised in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1: My local audit team

Engagement Lead	Matthew Edwards matthew.edwards@audit.wales
Audit Manager	Yvonne Thomas yvonne.thomas@audit.wales
Senior Auditor	Siwan Glyn siwan.glyn@audit.wales

Compliance with ethical standards

We confirm that:

- we have complied with the ethical standards we are required to follow in carrying out our work;
- we have remained independent of yourselves;
- our objectivity has not been comprised; and
- we have no relationships that could undermine our independence or objectivity.

The Audit Plan identified a potential independence threat arising from an acquaintance between the Audit Manager and a local authority officer who is a member of the North Wales CJC's Portfolio Board. The matter was monitored throughout the audit, and as the Audit Manager had no involvement with the individual during the audit, no actual or perceived impairment to independence or objectivity was identified. Consequently, no safeguards were required.

Appendix 1 – Audit risks and outcomes

My Audit Plan set out the risks of material misstatement for the audit of North Wales CJC accounts. **Exhibit 2** lists these audit risks and sets out how they were addressed as part of the audit. No additional audit risks have been identified since that need to be brought to your attention.

Exhibit 2: Audit risks reported previously, work done and outcome

Audit risk	Work done	Outcome
Risk of management override The risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is viewed as a significant risk [ISA 240.32-33].	The audit team: • tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments made in preparing the financial statements; • reviewed accounting estimates for bias; and • evaluated the rationale for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.	My audit work did not identify any instances of management override of controls.

Transition to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee In June 2022, the North Wales CJC assumed its functions, with the former NWEAB arrangements transferring to it on 1 April 2025. This change requires the accounts to include additional disclosures and to reflect the transfer of balances and data from the former body. Consequently, there is an increased risk that reporting requirements may not be fully complied with or that the transfer of information may not be fully met or that the information mat not completed accurately. If not appropriately managed, this could result in material misstatements in the financial statements.	The audit team: • engaged with finance officers during the accounts preparation process to discuss planned changes to disclosure requirements; • assessed all disclosures against the CIPFA Code and Disclosure Checklist to identify any missing or incorrect requirements; • performed detailed testing of new disclosures to confirm they were complete and that the underlying accounting treatment was accurate; and • audited the opening balances of the North Wales CJC accounts, including a review of the procedures for transferring balances from the previous NWEAB arrangements.	See Appendix 2 for details of my findings.

Valuation of pension fund net liability/surplus The Local Government Pension scheme (LGPS) pension fund liability/surplus as reflected in the financial statements are material estimates. The nature of this estimate means that it is subject to a high degree of estimation uncertainty as it is sensitive to small adjustments in the assumptions used in its calculation. The impact of economic conditions, particularly interest rate levels, also has a significant impact on the liability/surplus. A triennial valuation of the scheme has been undertaken as at 31 March 2025, which will impact upon disclosures in the North Wales CJC's financial statements for the first time in the 2025-26 financial year. There is a risk therefore that the liability/surplus is materially misstated.	The audit team: • evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management experts (actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work; • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the valuations; • assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the North Wales CJC to the actuary to estimate the liability; • tested the accuracy of the pension fund net liability and disclosures in the financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; • assessed the reasonableness of the assumptions made by the actuary by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (auditor's expert) and undertaking any additional procedures required; and • undertook a programme of work to provide assurance over the data used by the actuary to undertake the triennial valuation.	My audit work did not identify any significant issues.

Senior officer remuneration Remuneration paid to senior officers are of high interest and is material by nature. There is a risk that the structure of the senior officers, following the transfer of the NWEAB to the North Wales CJC, may not be fully or appropriately disclosed in the financial statements. There is therefore a risk that even low value errors in the disclosure could result a material misstatement.	The audit team: • gained an understanding of the senior management team structure in place during 2025-26; • ensured that remuneration disclosed was consistent with supporting evidence; • ensured that amounts paid were consistent with those approved by the North Wales CJC; and • ensured that disclosures were complete based on the team's knowledge and are prepared in accordance with requirements.	My audit work did not identify any significant issues.

Related party disclosures The financial statements must disclose any related party relationships along with the transactions and balances between the North Wales CJC and the other body/party. The North Wales CJC has many relationships that could be considered a related party. Many are well known for example, Welsh Government as funder. However, where related party relationships arise via individual officer or member relationships, there is likely to be less transparency regarding these relationships. These transactions are of high interest and are considered to be material by their nature. There is a risk of material misstatement due to incomplete or inaccurate disclosures, even where these are of relatively low value.	My audit team: • reviewed the North Wales CJC's process for identifying related party relationships and associated transactions and balances; • undertook procedures to confirm the completeness of related party relationships; and • ensured disclosures were complete, accurate, consistent with evidence and are in accordance with the Local Government Code.	See Appendix 2 for details of my findings.

Leases As this is the first year of full accounts for the North Wales CJC financial statements following the transfer of the NWEAB on 1 April 2025, there is a risk that lease arrangements have not been fully identified or appropriately assessed under the requirements of the revised IFRS 16 'Lease accounting' standard (IFRS16). Contracts that contain leases may be omitted or incorrectly classified. This could result in material misstatement due to incomplete or inaccurate recognition, measurement and disclosure of right-of-use assets and corresponding lease liabilities in the financial statements.	My audit team: • obtained an understanding of management's process for identifying leases; • reviewed the North Wales CJC's working papers to ensure that all leases falling within the scope of IFRS16 were included in calculations; • tested a sample of asset and liability calculations to ensure that the assumptions were reasonable, and the calculations were correctly prepared; and • confirmed that asset and liability values were correctly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.	My audit work did not identify any significant issues.

Recognition of new Collaborative Arrangement The North Wales CJC entered a new collaborative arrangement with the Welsh Government for the development of a project, whereby the Welsh Government provides land, and the North Wales CJC provides funding. As this type of arrangement is not currently undertaken by the North Wales CJC, there is a risk that it has not been appropriately assessed and accounted for in accordance with the relevant accounting standards. This may result in incorrect recognition, classification, or disclosure of assets, liabilities, or interests in the arrangement within the financial statements.	My audit team: • obtained and reviewed the formal agreement for the project to understand the roles, responsibilities, and rights of each party; • assessed whether the arrangement met the definition of a joint venture under the relevant accounting framework; • assessed how any asset, liability, or interest in the project should be recognised; and • checked calculations and supporting data for any amounts recognised.	See Audit Findings and Appendix 2 for details of my findings.

Appendix 2 – Summary of corrections made

During our audit, we identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention.

Value of correction	Accounts area	Explanation
£6,942,000 Disclosure only - no overall effect on the financial statements	**Cash Flow Statement and the following associated notes 18a, 18b and 19**	A loan advanced during the year was correctly recognised as a debtor in the Balance Sheet; however, the related cash outflow had been incorrectly classified as an investing activity within the Cash Flow Statement. This treatment was inconsistent with the accounting classification applied to the loan. The Cash Flow Statement was amended to ensure consistency with the Balance Sheet presentation as follows: • Increased the 'Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements' by £6,942,000. • Removed the 'adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities' of £6,942,000. This also affected the related Cash Flow notes as follows: • Note 18a: increased 'Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors' by £6,942,000 • Note 18b: removed 'Grant received for the financing of loan advanced' of £6,942,000. • Note 19: removed loan advanced of £6,942,000 and removed 'Grant received

		for the financing of loan advanced' of (£6,942,000)
£1,923,000 Disclosure only - no overall effect on the financial statements	**Note 13a Financial Instruments**	The Financial Instruments note omitted a creditor of £1.923 million relating to an undrawn element of the loan referred to above from 'financial liabilities measured at amortised cost'. As the balance represented a contractual obligation to transfer cash, it met the definition of a financial liability. The note was amended to include the balance within financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.
Disclosure only	**Note 3 Prior Period Adjustments (PPA)** **Note 2 North Wales Growth Deal and Regional Skills Partnership Transfer**	The disclosures in Note 3 did not meet the accounting standards' definition of a prior period adjustment, as they related to balances transferred to the North Wales CJC on 1 April 2025. They was therefore moved to Note 2 to better reflects its nature.
Disclosure only	**Note 25 Related Parties**	Payments to statutory officers under an SLA agreement were not originally disclosed as Key Management Personnel remuneration. The Related Parties note was amended to include these payments.
Disclosure only	**Note 28 Joint Ventures**	Our audit work concluded that the arrangement with Welsh Government is a Joint Operation rather than a Joint Venture. The related accounting issues is set out on page 8.

Various - no overall effect on the primary statements	various	Other minor amendments were made to disclosures, narrative wording and typographical errors.

Appendix 3 – Proposed audit report

The report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2026 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's financial statements comprise the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes, including the material accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee as at 31 March 2026 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

My staff and I are independent of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view and comply with proper practices;
- maintaining proper accounting records;
- internal controls as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- assessing the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible financial officer anticipates that the services provided by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- enquiring of management, the Head of Internal Audit and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to North Wales Corporate Joint Committee policies and procedures concerned with:

  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: management override and the posting of unusual journals;
- obtaining an understanding of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that North Wales Corporate Joint Committee operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee; and
- obtaining an understanding of related party relationships;

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and legal advisors about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Catherine Mealing-Jones

Auditor General for Wales

29 September 2026

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Appendix 4 – Letter of representation

Final letter of representation

Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

25 Medi 2026

Representations regarding the 2025-26 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2026 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
    - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
    - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
    - unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and involves:
    - management;
    - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
    - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
The methods, the data, and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor, accounted for, and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. There are no uncorrected misstatements in the financial statements.

Representations by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

We acknowledge that the above representations made by management have been discussed with us. We acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that the company maintains adequate accounting records.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 25 September 2026.

We confirm that we have taken all necessary steps to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by: Dewi Morgan	Signed by: Mark Pritchard
Head of Finance (Statutory S151 Officer)	Chair of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee
25 September 2026	25 September 2026

Audit quality

Our commitment to audit quality in Audit Wales is absolute. We believe that audit quality is about getting things right first time.

We use a three lines of assurance model to demonstrate how we achieve this. We have established an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and our Chair of the Board acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our latest audit quality report.

Our People

- Selection of right team
- Use of specialists
- Supervisions and review

Arrangements for achieving audit quality Selection of right team

- Audit platform
- Ethics
- Guidance
- Culture
- Learning and development
- Leadership
- Technical support

Independent assurance

- EQRs
- Themed reviews
- Cold reviews
- Root cause analysis
- Peer review
- Audit Quality Committee
- External monitoring

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Audit Wales has a range of resources to support the scrutiny of Welsh public bodies, and to support them in continuing to improve the services they provide to the people of Wales.

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Our newsletter which provides you with regular updates on our public service audit work, good practice, and events.

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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.