WIRRAL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026

REPORT TITLE:	**INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE**
REPORT OF:	**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the performance and effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service and summarises the outcomes of audit work undertaken during the period 1 May 2026 to 31 August 2026. It highlights matters requiring Members' attention, as detailed in Appendix 1, including proposed amendments to the Annual Audit Plan.

The report also provides an update on progress towards compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards for UK Public Sector (GIAS), including ongoing work to support conformance with the Standards and the outcomes of a recent self-assessment against Domain 3. The report also outlines progress on the arrangements for the forthcoming External Quality Assessment.

The report further summarises Counter Fraud activity undertaken during the reporting period, including investigations completed, financial savings achieved, progress with the National Fraud Initiative, and ongoing proactive fraud prevention work.

The report supports the draft Wirral Plan 2027-31: A New Chapter for Wirral, specifically the aim to provide reliable everyday services

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough. It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) The Audit and Risk Management Committee is recommended to note the report

(2) Approve the changes to the Annual Internal Audit Plan detailed in the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To provide the Members with assurance that the Council is taking appropriate measures to ensure that the control environment is effective and to comply with statutory requirements to provide an adequate and effective internal audit service.

1.2 To ensure that risks to the Council are managed effectively.

1.3 To ensure that the Council complies with best practice guidance identified by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIIA) on the provision of regular information on the outcome of the work completed by the Internal Audit Team.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options considered appropriate as the service is required to comply with the very specific requirements of the GIAS on the delivery and reporting frequency for internal audit activity.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND AUDIT OUTPUT

3.1 Internal Audit operate an effective reporting mechanism for Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee that summarises audit work completed and identifies issues raised on timely basis. This report supports these arrangements by focussing on the following:

- Any items of note arising from audit work conducted,
- Any issues arising that require actions to be taken by Members,
- Performance information relating to the Internal Audit Service,
- Developments being undertaken to improve the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service.

- Proposed changes in the Audit Plan for approval

Annual Audit Plan

3.2 It is professional good practice to review the annual audit plan periodically through the year to take account of resource changes, evolving risks and developing perceptions of the effectiveness of functions within the Council.

3.3 There are a proposed changes to the Annual Audit Plan which is discussed in Appendix 1.

3.4 The information contained within this report is for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 August 2026.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Appropriate actions are not taken by officers and Members in response to the identification of risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives. This is mitigated by a robust system of follow up, reporting and escalation of audit matters.

7.2 Potential failure of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to comply with best professional practice and thereby not function in an efficient and effective manner. This is mitigated by comprehensive governance and reporting systems developed and implemented in compliance with relevant professional standards.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Members of this Committee are consulted throughout the process of delivering the Internal Audit Plan and the content of this regular routine report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report have no direct implications for equality. However, the delivery of an effective internal audit service will assist in ensuring that the Council, its finances, and service provision are effectively managed and governed aiding the advancement of equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2/greenhouse gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report have no direct implications for community wealth. However, the delivery of an effective internal audit service will assist in ensuring that the Council, its finances, and service provision are effectively managed and governed aiding the advancement of economic, social and environmental justice for all residents.

12.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The report has no crime and disorder implications.

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APPENDICES

1. Internal Audit Update
2. Updated Internal Audit Plan
3. Summary of Audit Activity

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Internal Audit Plan 2025-26
Revised Internal Audit Plan 2025-26 approved in January 2026.
Internal Audit Plan 2026-27 approved in March 2026

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee in accordance with Section B of its Terms of Reference.

(b) Internal Audit and Internal Control
(iv) Consider regular summary reports on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and actions in hand as a result of internal audit activity.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	**Date**
Audit and Risk Management Committee	Routine report presented to all meetings of this Committee.