



WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Internal Audit Progress Report

10 March 2026

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KEY MESSAGES

The internal audit plan for 2025/26 was approved by the Governance and Audit Committee at the 11 March 2025 meeting. This report provides an update on progress against the plan and summarises the results of our work to date.



We have issued five reports as final as part of the internal audit plan since the Governance and Audit Committee meeting. These are Grant Funding and Grant Management (5.25/26), Procurement (7.25/26), Local Code of Governance (8.25/26), Planning Enforcement (10.25/26) and HR System Readiness (11.25/26).

- Details of the progress made against the internal audit plan are included at Appendix A. [\[To note\]](#)
- Fieldwork dates have been agreed with management for all of the internal audits scheduled for 2025/26 to ensure that all fieldwork will be completed by the end of the year, and our Head of Internal Audit Opinion can be provided at the first meeting of the 2026/27 financial year. Details are included in Appendix B. [\[To note\]](#)
- Our 2026/27 internal audit plan is also being presented to this committee for approval at this meeting. [\[To note\]](#)

Appendices

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APPENDIX A: PROGRESS AGAINST THE INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2025/26

Assignment	Status / Opinion issued	Actions agreed				Target Governance and Audit Committee meeting	Actual Governance and Audit Committee meeting
		Advisory	Low	Medium	High		
Fraud Risk Assessment - Follow Up	Final Report Issued / Reasonable Assurance	0	1	3	0	July 2025	July 2025
Follow Up 1	Final Report Issued / Reasonable Progress	0	3	1	0	September 2025	September 2025
Cyber Security Operations	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	0	1	1	0	November 2025	November 2025
Members Onboarding and Training	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	0	2	0	0	November 2025	January 2026
Grant Funding and Grant Management	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	0	3	0	0	January 2026	March 2026
Financial Resilience and Scrutiny	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	0	1	0	0	January 2026	January 2026
Procurement	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	0	2	0	0	January 2026	March 2026
HR System Readiness	Final Report Issued / Advisory Review	2	0	0	0	January 2026	March 2026
Code of Governance	Final Report Issued / Advisory Review	1	5	2	0	January 2026	March 2026
Planning Enforcement	Final Report Issued / Substantial Assurance	2	3	0	0	March 2026	March 2026
Emergency Planning / BCP	Draft Report Issued					May 2026	
Climate Change Strategy	Draft Report Issued					May 2026	
Follow Up 2	Fieldwork commencing 9 March 2026					May 2026	

APPENDIX B: OTHER MATTERS

Quality assurance and continual improvement

To ensure that RSM remains compliant with the PSIAS framework we have a dedicated internal Quality Assurance Team who undertake a programme of reviews to ensure the quality of our audit assignments. This is applicable to all Heads of Internal Audit, where a sample of their clients will be reviewed. Any findings from these reviews are used to inform the training needs of our audit teams.

As part of the Quality Assessment and Improvement Programme, none of your files were selected for Internal Quality Monitoring programme during 2024/25. From the results of the reviews undertaken across our client base, there are no areas which we believe warrant flagging to your attention as impacting on the quality of the service we provide to you.

In addition to this, any feedback we receive from our post assignment surveys, client feedback, appraisal processes and training needs assessments is also taken into consideration to continually improve the service we provide and inform any training requirements.

Post assignment surveys

We are committed to delivering an excellent client experience every time we work with you. Your feedback helps us to improve the quality of the service we deliver to you. Following the completion of each product, we include a link to a brief survey in each report we issue.

APPENDIX C: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	Delivery				Quality		
	Target	Actual	Notes*		Target	Actual	Notes*
Audits commenced in line with original timescales*	Yes	Yes		Conformance with PSIAS	Yes	Yes	
Draft reports issued within 10 days of debrief meeting	10 working days	6 working days (average)		Liaison with external audit to allow, where appropriate and required, the external auditor to place reliance on the work of internal audit	Yes	Yes	
Management responses received within 10 days of draft report	10 working days	16 working days (average)	¹	Response time for all general enquiries for assistance	2 working days	2 working days	
Final report issued within 3 days of management response	3 working days	1 working days (average)		Response for emergencies and potential fraud	1 working day	N/A	

Notes

This takes into account changes agreed by management and the Governance and Audit Committee during the year. Through employing an agile or a flexible approach to our service delivery we are able to respond to your assurance needs.

¹ This delay is mainly due to responses to the Grant Funding and Grant Management Report taking 49 working days and Local Code of Governance taking 30 working days. Without this, the average time to respond to draft reports is 11 working days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during the course of our review and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all improvements that might be made. Actions for improvements should be assessed by you for their full impact. This report, or our work, should not be taken as a substitute for management's responsibilities for the application of sound commercial practices. We emphasise that the responsibility for a sound system of internal controls rests with management and our work should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses that may exist. Neither should our work be relied upon to identify all circumstances of fraud and irregularity should there be any.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of West Lindsey District Council, and solely for the purposes set out herein. This report should not therefore be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any other party wishing to acquire any rights from RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP for any purpose or in any context. Any third party which obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on it (or any part of it) will do so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by any person's reliance on representations in this report.

This report is released to you on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole or in part (save as otherwise permitted by agreed written terms), without our prior written consent.

We have no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report.

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