

Date issued: 2 March 2026

Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for Gwent Police

Joint Audit Committee 2 March 2026 – Audit Update Paper

This paper provides the Committee with an update on current and planned Audit Wales work

2024-25 Financial Statements

Financial Statements Audit

1. The notices of audit completion for 2024-25 were issued to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable on 4 November 2025.
2. The Annual Audit Summary 2024-25 has been agreed with management and is included in today's committee papers.
3. We met with finance officers for a post project learning session on 8 January 2026 discussing what went well and what we can collectively be improved with the accounts and audit process for 2025-26.
4. An All-Wales Police and Audit Wales post project learning session took place on 23 January 2026. This session provided a wider discussion on the lessons learnt from both the accounts preparation and subsequent audits across all eight sets of accounts across the four police audits. We also reviewed matters relevant to the planning and preparation of the 2025-26 accounts.
5. **Working together to deliver quality and timely Local Government Accounts.** This Audit Wales event held on 2 December 2025 provided an opportunity to share experiences, learn and network with peers across the public sector in Wales. The event was attended by finance officers from Gwent Police.

[Working together to deliver quality and timely Local Government accounts | Audit Wales](#)

2025-26 Financial Statements

Audit Planning

6. Audit planning work has commenced, and we have started to discuss the profiling of the audit with finance officers. The audit planning work will inform our risk assessment processes and the preparation of the Detailed Audit Plan.
7. Alongside our audit planning work, we have started to undertake some interim audit testing. Further interim work will be undertaken in March and April. We continue to work closely with finance officers to plan the timings of our work.
8. Both the audit team and the finance team will use INFLO Collaborate (INFLO) again in 2026 to raise audit queries and share documents, this approach has worked well to date. We will continue to refine its use through 2026 to maximise benefits for finance officers and the audit team.

Financial Statements certification deadline 2025-26

9. The Audit and Accounts certification deadline for 2025-26 has moved forward to 30 September 2026. As reported in the Audit of Accounts Report issued in October 2025, if similar delays in the provision of audit information are encountered in 2026 it will prevent us from achieving the 30 September deadline.
10. In order to meet the September deadline, it will be imperative that:
 - the accounts and the annual governance statement are received on time;
 - are of high quality and are fully supported;
 - all working papers are available and have been quality assessed at the commencement of the audit; and
 - staff are available throughout the audit window to ensure that audit queries are resolved in a timely manner.
11. We have discussed these matters with finance officers as part of our post project learning and we will continue to assess and review the position for 2025-26.

General Audit Wales update

[Podcast: Bold action needed for future of Welsh public services | Audit Wales](#)

12. As he approaches the final stage of his eight-year tenure as Auditor General Adrian Crompton offers his unique perspective on the persistent challenges and opportunities for improvement for public services in Wales.
13. In a series of podcasts, Adrian is joined by political commentator Betsan Powys as they explore the big questions facing public sector leaders and politicians in Wales, including:

- Financial pressures: with local government budgets squeezed year on year and health boards struggling to break even despite record investment, Adrain warns that the current model of public service delivery is unsustainable.
 - Rising demand and complexity: services are under strain from demographic changes and global uncertainty, while the public service landscape is fragmented, crowded and overly complex.
 - Declining trust and confidence: public confidence in governance and service delivery is diminishing, partly due to global trends but compounded by high-profile failures within Wales.
 - Opportunities for change: digital transformation, workforce planning, better asset management, and a shift to prevention could unlock productivity and value for money.
14. All of this while navigating the global challenges shaping the world around us from the climate emergency and geo-political instabilities to the rapid advancement of technology.

Recent Audit Wales publications

15. Our publications can be accessed via [Publication | Audit Wales](#). Below are some that have been added since our last Audit Update dated November 2025:

- [Private finance – public impact | Audit Wales](#) (February 2026)

Examining decision making for the new Velindre Cancer Centre.

In March 2024, after Welsh Government approval, Velindre University NHS Trust agreed a long-term contract with a private consortium, ACORN, to design, build, finance and maintain the new Velindre Cancer Centre. We examined whether the Trust and the Welsh Government can demonstrate a sound basis for key decisions taken so far. We focused on developments around and since Outline Business Case approval in March 2021, including the procurement process, approval of the Full Business Case and the agreed contract.

- [The Building Blocks? | Audit Wales](#) Capital Planning in Councils in Wales (November 2025)

We looked at how councils plan their capital spending. We focused on councils' annual capital programme and capital strategies. We considered how well informed these plans are and if they clearly set out their intended outcomes. We also looked to see if they take account of things like current conditions of assets and available resources to deliver them.

We recommend that councils use our checklist, which sets out key aspects of effective capital planning, to review their capital planning arrangements.

[The Building Blocks? Capital Planning in Councils in Wales checklist | Audit Wales](#)

Good Practice Exchange

16. We continue to seek opportunities for finding and sharing good practice from all-Wales audit work through our forward planning, programme design and good practice research. Details of our future events are available on our website.

[Good Practice | Audit Wales](#)

David Williams – Audit Manager

2 March 2026