

North East Derbyshire District Council

Audit Committee

27th April 2026

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2026/27

Report of the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Head of the Internal Audit Consortium

Contact Officer: Jenny Williams
Jenny.williams@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To present to Members for consideration and agreement the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27 be agreed.
2. That it be noted that the plan is provisional and may need adjusting and prioritising in the light of any changes in the Council's business, risk operations, programs. Systems, controls and organisational culture. Any significant changes to be brought back to this Committee for approval.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The internal audit budget for 2026/27 has been approved by the Joint Board.

The audit plan is designed to provide assurance that the council's significant risks identified as part of the risk assessment process are being managed effectively. If additional risks are identified and / or there are changes to priorities during the year the plan will be reconsidered. Any significant changes to the plan will be reported back to the Audit Committee for approval.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes

No

Details:

The core work of internal audit is derived from the statutory responsibility under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which requires the Council to “undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking in to account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance”.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing:

Yes

No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details:

Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

The internal audit plan is linked to the Council Plan in respect of its aim to continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and Value for money and to provide assurance in respect of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 1.1 The Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector require that the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium create an internal audit plan that supports the achievement of the Council's objectives. The plan should be based on the strategies, objectives and risks of the Council and the Head of Internal Audit's understanding of the governance, risk management and control processes in place.
- 1.2 The Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector require that the Audit Committee (highest level body charged with governance) approve the plan.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The plan has been prepared taking into account the following factors: -
- The Council's objectives and priorities,
 - Local and national issues and risks,
 - The requirement to produce an annual internal audit opinion – adequate coverage of governance, risk and control arrangements,
 - Information technology governance, fraud risk, the effectiveness of the Council's compliance with ethics programs and other high- risk areas,
 - The Council's strategic and operational risk registers,
 - Consultation with the Senior Leadership Team.
- 2.2 An annual report summarising the outcome of the 2025/26 internal audit plan will be presented to this Committee after the year-end. Several areas have been rolled forward to the 2026/27 internal audit plan due to a lack of resources during the year and the overrun of the 2024/25 internal audit plan.
- 2.3 A summary of the internal audit plan for 2026/27 is shown below and in detail at Appendix 1.

Internal Audit Plan 2026/27

Summary	Audit Days
Main Financial Systems	90
Other Operational Audits	135
Computer / IT Related	15
National Fraud Initiative	5
Rykneld Homes Ltd	97
Corporate / Cross Cutting / Governance	59
Special Investigations & Contingency	40
Apprenticeships / Training	30
Audit Committee / Client Liaison	15
Grand Total	486

2.4 Resource availability has been based on the Consortium Business Plan that was approved by the Joint Board on the 25th March 2026. The plan allocates 486 days to North East Derbyshire District Council for 2026/27, this is the same allocation as in 2025/26.

2.5 The plan is ambitious and is reliant upon having a full staffing complement and fully trained staff.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To comply with the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector and to determine the internal audit work plan for the year.

3.2 To ensure that the annual internal audit opinion can provide assurance in respect of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Internal Audit Plan 2026/27
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	