

REPORT TO: TAYSIDE VALUATION JOINT BOARD - 21 JANUARY 2019

REPORT ON: AUDIT SCOTLAND – ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2018/19

REPORT BY: TREASURER

REPORT NO: TVJB 3 - 2019

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to the Joint Board External Audit's Audit strategy overview and plan for the year ending 31 March 2019, attached as an Appendix to this report.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Joint Board is asked to note the content of External Audit's Annual Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2019.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of External Audit Services is provided for in the Assessor's Revenue Budget.

4 MAIN TEXT

Introduction

- 4.1 The external audit of the Joint Board for the financial year 2018/19 will be carried out by Mr Bruce Crosbie, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland. The Joint Board's External Auditors are appointed for a five year period and financial year 2018/19 marks the third year of Audit Scotland's current appointment to the Board.

External Auditor's Audit strategy overview and plan

- 4.2 The External Auditor's Audit strategy overview and plan summarises Audit Scotland's responsibilities as external auditors for the year ending 31 March 2019 and their intended approach to issues impacting the Joint Board's activities in that year.

External Auditor's responsibilities

Audit Scotland's responsibilities as independent auditor, are established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Code of Audit Practice, and guided by the auditing profession's ethical guidance.

The Auditors' objectives in relation to the Code of Practice are to:-

- audit the financial statements and place a certificate on the statements stating that the audit has been conducted in accordance with Part VII of the Act;
- satisfy themselves that:
 - the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements;

- proper accounting practices have been observed in the preparation of the financial statements;
 - the Joint Board has made proper arrangements for securing Best Value and is complying with its community duties; and
 - the Joint Board has made adequate arrangements for collecting, recording and publishing prescribed performance information;
- hear any objection to the financial statements lodged by an interested person.

4.4 **Reporting Arrangements**

Under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, there is a requirement for unaudited Annual Accounts to be presented to the appointed Auditor within 3 months of the financial year end i.e. 30th June. The non-statutory target date for audit completion is 26 August 2019.

The External Auditor provides an independent auditor's report to the Joint Board and the Accounts Commission stating that the audit of the financial statements has been completed in accordance with applicable statutory requirements, including an opinion on those financial statements. An annual report to members and the Controller of Audit will also be produced to summarise all significant matters arising from the audit. This will be prepared for the Joint Board meeting on 26 August 2019 when the audited financial statements will also be considered prior to formal sign off.

5 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues identified.

6 **CONSULTATIONS**

The Assessor and the Clerk to the Joint Board have been consulted on the content of this report.

7 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

GREGORY COLGAN
TREASURER

10 JANUARY 2019

Tayside Valuation Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2018/19



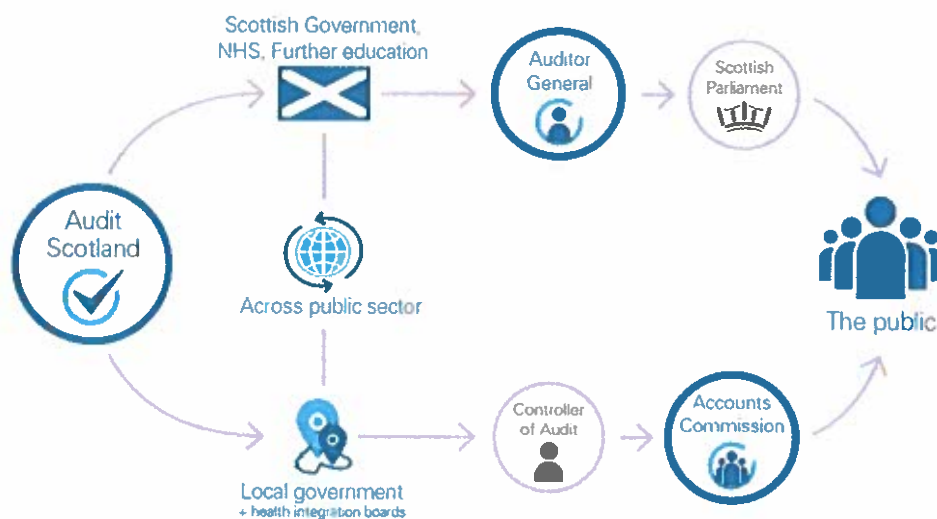
 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Tayside Valuation Joint Board
January 2019

Who we are

The Auditor General, the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland work together to deliver public audit in Scotland:

- The Auditor General is an independent crown appointment, made on the recommendation of the Scottish Parliament, to audit the Scottish Government, NHS and other bodies and report to Parliament on their financial health and performance.
- The Accounts Commission is an independent public body appointed by Scottish ministers to hold local government to account. The Controller of Audit is an independent post established by statute, with powers to report directly to the Commission on the audit of local government.
- Audit Scotland is governed by a board, consisting of the Auditor General, the chair of the Accounts Commission, a non-executive board chair, and two non-executive members appointed by the Scottish Commission for Public Audit, a commission of the Scottish Parliament.



About us

Our vision is to be a world-class audit organisation that improves the use of public money.

Through our work for the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission, we provide independent assurance to the people of Scotland that public money is spent properly and provides value. We aim to achieve this by:

- carrying out relevant and timely audits of the way the public sector manages and spends money
- reporting our findings and conclusions in public
- identifying risks, making clear and relevant recommendations.

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Risks and planned work

1. This annual audit plan contains an overview of the planned scope and timing of our audit and is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the [Code of Audit Practice](#), and any other relevant guidance. This plan sets out the work necessary to allow us to provide an independent auditor's report on the financial statements and meet the wider scope requirements as a small audited body of public sector audit.
2. The wider scope of public audit for a small audited body contributes to assessments and conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance and financial sustainability.
3. Supplementary Guidance allows appointed auditors to use judgement to conclude that the full application of the wider scope is not appropriate based on the risks, nature and size of an audited body (a small audited body clause). In our judgement the small audited body clause applies to the Tayside Valuation Joint Board (the board)


Adding value


4. We aim to add value to Tayside Valuation Joint Board (the board) through our external audit work by being constructive and forward looking, by identifying areas for improvement and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In so doing, we intend to help the board promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.

Audit risks

5. Based on our discussions with staff, attendance at meetings of the Joint Board and a review of supporting information we have identified the following main risk areas for Tayside Valuation Joint Board. We have categorised these risks into financial risks and wider dimension risks. The key audit risks, which require specific audit testing, are detailed in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1 2018/19 Key audit risks

 Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statements issues and risks		
<p>1 Risk of management override of controls</p> <p>ISA 240 requires that audit work is planned to consider the risk of fraud, which is presumed to be a significant risk in any audit. This includes consideration of the risk of management override of controls to change the position disclosed in the financial statements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable in this instance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed testing of journal entries. • Review of accounting estimates. • Focused testing of accruals and prepayments. • Evaluation of significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business.

	Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
2	<p>Risk of fraud over expenditure</p> <p>The Code of Audit Practice requires consideration of risk of fraud over expenditure. The board incurs significant expenditure which requires audit coverage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring by management. Governance arrangements including The Local code of Corporate Governance, standing orders and anti-fraud guidelines. Internal controls in financial systems to mitigate risks of error of manipulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of key financial controls over expenditure Detailed testing of transactions focusing on the greater areas of risk.
3	<p>Estimation and judgements</p> <p>There is a significant degree of subjectivity in the measurement and valuation of the material account areas of pensions and provisions. This subjectivity represents an increased risk of misstatement in the financial statements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actuarial valuation to provide pensions figures for the financial statements. Officer review of actuary information to ensure data and assumptions used are reasonable. Assessment of all potential provisions together with assessing potential liability and likelihood of settlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of 'review of the work of an expert' for the actuary Focused testing of pension and provisions.
4	<p>Compliance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014</p> <p>The board must give public notice of the right of interested persons to inspect and object to its accounts no later than 17 June immediately following the financial year to which the accounts relate. For 2017/18, the notice was uploaded to the board's website on 24 June 2018, six days after the latest date allowable under the statutory regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures established to ensure the timescale for issuing the Statutory notice is achieved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the board's website to ensure the statutory deadline for the public notice of the accounts is met.

Wider dimension issues and risks

5	<p>Financial sustainability</p> <p>Our 2017/18 Annual Audit Report highlighted that the board referenced medium to long term financial planning in its budget considerations but did not have a formal medium to long term financial plan in place. This was recognised in the board's continuous improvement agenda.</p> <p>There is a risk that the board may fail to set realistic targets in its plans or is unable to achieve its objectives due to lack of resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to long-term financial plans are being developed for 2019/20 budget process. These financial plans will link to the corporate and service plans and incorporate scenario planning (including the impact of EU withdrawal). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor progress in implementing the agreed actions.
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Reporting arrangements

6. Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit. All annual audit plans and the outputs as detailed in [Exhibit 2](#), and any other outputs on matters of public interest will be published on our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

7. Matters arising from our audit will be reported on a timely basis and will include agreed action plans. Any draft management reports will be issued to the relevant officer(s) to confirm factual accuracy.

8. We will provide an independent auditor's report to Tayside Valuation Joint Board and Accounts Commission setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will provide the Board and Accounts Commission with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen during the audit.

Exhibit 2 2018/19 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Board Date
Annual Audit Plan	14 January 2019	21 January 2019
Proposed Annual Audit Report including ISA 260 requirements	15 August 2019	26 August 2019
Independent Auditor's Report	26 August 2019	26 August 2019

Source: Audit Scotland

Audit fee

9. The proposed audit fee for the 2018/19 audit of the board is £7,280 (2017/18 £7,080). In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of the board, the planned management assurances in place and the level of reliance we plan to take from the work of internal audit. Our audit approach assumes receipt of the unaudited financial statements, with a complete working papers package, by 28 June 2019.

10. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited financial statements or being unable to take planned reliance from the work of internal audit, a supplementary fee may be levied. An additional fee may also be required in relation to any work or other significant exercises out with our planned audit activity.

Responsibilities

Tayside Valuation Joint Board (the Board) and Treasurer

11. Audited bodies have the primary responsibility for ensuring the proper financial stewardship of public funds, compliance with relevant legislation and establishing effective arrangements for governance, propriety and regularity that enable them to successfully deliver their objectives.

12. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or the Board as those charged with governance, of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

13. Our responsibilities as independent auditors are established by the 1973 Act for local government, and the Code of Audit Practice (including supplementary guidance) and guided by the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard.

14. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements and other information within the financial statements. We also review and report on the arrangements within the audited body to manage its performance, regularity and use of resources. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Audit scope and timing

Financial Statements

15. The financial statements, which include the financial statements, will be the foundation and source for most of the audit work necessary to support our judgements and conclusions. We also consider the wider environment and challenges facing the public sector. Our audit approach includes:

- understanding the business of the board and the associated risks which could impact on the financial statements
- assessing the key systems of internal control, and establishing how weaknesses in these systems could impact on the financial statements
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how the board will include these in the financial statements
- assessing the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements
- determining the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to provide us with sufficient audit evidence as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

16. We will give an opinion on whether the financial statements as to:

- whether they give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2018/19 Code of the state of affairs of the board as at 31 March 2019 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the Code
- whether they have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Other information in the annual accounts

17. We also review and report on other information published within the annual accounts including the management commentary, annual governance statement and the remuneration report. We give an opinion on whether these have been compiled in accordance with the appropriate regulations and frameworks in our independent auditor's report.

18. We also read and consider any information in the annual accounts other than the financial statements and audited part of the remuneration report and report any uncorrected material misstatements.

Materiality

19. We apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit. It is used in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit, and of any uncorrected misstatements, on the financial statements and in forming our opinions in the independent auditor's report.



20. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for Tayside Valuation Joint Board are set out in [Exhibit 3](#).

Exhibit 3 Materiality values



Materiality	Amount
Planning materiality – This is the calculated figure we use in assessing the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. It has been set at 2% of gross expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2019 based on the latest audited accounts.	£80,000
Performance materiality – This acts as a trigger point. If the aggregate of errors identified during the financial statements audit exceeds performance materiality this would indicate that further audit procedures should be considered. Using our professional judgement, we have calculated performance materiality at 75% of planning materiality.	£60,000
Reporting threshold (i.e., clearly trivial) – We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements more than the 'reporting threshold' amount. This has been calculated at 5% of planning materiality.	£4,000

Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

21. To support the efficient use of resources it is critical that the financial statements timetable is agreed with us to produce the unaudited accounts. We have included an agreed timetable at [Exhibit 4](#).

Exhibit 4 Financial Statements timetable

 Key stage	 Date
Consideration of unaudited financial statements by those charged with governance	24 June 2019
Latest submission date of unaudited annual accounts with complete working papers package	28 June 2019
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Treasurer	5 August 2019
Agreement of audited unsigned annual accounts	7 August 2019
Issue of proposed Annual Audit Report to those charged with governance	15 August 2019
Independent auditor's report signed	26 August 2019

Internal audit

22. Internal audit is provided by Henderson Loggie. As part of our planning process we carry out an annual assessment of the internal audit function to ensure that it operates in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

23. Overall, we have concluded that the internal audit service generally operates in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and has sound documentation standards and reporting practices in place.

Using the work of internal audit

24. Auditing standards require internal and external auditors to work closely together to make best use of available audit resources. We seek to rely on the work of internal audit wherever possible to avoid duplication. We plan to consider the findings of the work of internal audit as part of our planning process to minimise duplication of effort and to ensure the total resource is used efficiently or effectively.

25. From our initial review of internal audit plans we do not plan to place formal reliance on internal audit work for our financial statements work. For the purpose of our wider dimension audit responsibilities we plan to consider internal audit's work on: Risk Management / Business Continuity Planning.

26. We will review the findings of all internal audit reports and consider the impact of any findings on our audit approach.

Audit dimensions

27. Our standard audits are based on four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit requirements. These are: financial sustainability, financial management, governance and accountability and value for money.

28. The Code of Audit Practice includes provisions relating to the audit of small bodies. Where the application of the full wider audit scope is judged by auditors not to be appropriate to an audited body then the annual audit work can focus on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement and the financial sustainability of the body and its services. In the light of the volume and lack of complexity of the financial transactions, we plan to apply the small body provisions of the Code to the 2018/19 audit of the board.

Financial sustainability

29. As auditors we consider the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting as part of the annual audit. We will also comment on the body's financial sustainability in the longer term. We define this as medium term (two to five years) and longer term (longer than five years) sustainability. We will carry out work and conclude on:

- the effectiveness of financial planning in identifying and addressing risks to financial sustainability in the short, medium and long term
- the appropriateness and effectiveness of arrangements in place to address any identified funding gaps

Governance and transparency

30. Governance and transparency is concerned with the effectiveness of scrutiny and governance arrangements, leadership and decision – making and transparent reporting of financial and performance information. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether the board can demonstrate that the governance arrangements in place are appropriate and operating effectively
- whether there is effective scrutiny, challenge and transparency on the decision-making and finance and performance reports.
- the quality and timeliness of financial and performance reporting.

Independence and objectivity

31. Auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission or Auditor General must comply with the Code of Audit Practice and relevant supporting guidance. When auditing the financial statements auditors must also comply with professional standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and those of the professional

accountancy bodies. These standards impose stringent rules to ensure the independence and objectivity of auditors. Audit Scotland has robust arrangements in place to ensure compliance with these standards including an annual “fit and proper” declaration for all members of staff. The arrangements are overseen by the Director of Audit Services, who serves as Audit Scotland’s Ethics Partner.

32. The engagement lead for the board is Bruce Crosbie, Senior Audit Manager. Auditing and ethical standards require the appointed auditor to communicate any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of audit staff. We are not aware of any such relationships pertaining to the audit of the board.

Quality control

33. International Standard on Quality Control (UK and Ireland) 1 (ISQC1) requires that a system of quality control is established, as part of financial audit procedures, to provide reasonable assurance that professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements are being complied with and that the independent auditor’s report or opinion is appropriate in the circumstances.

34. The foundation of our quality framework is our Audit Guide, which incorporates the application of professional auditing, quality and ethical standards and the Code of Audit Practice (and supporting guidance) issued by Audit Scotland and approved by the Auditor General for Scotland. To ensure that we achieve the required quality standards Audit Scotland conducts peer reviews and internal quality reviews. Additionally, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS) have been commissioned to carry out external quality reviews.

35. As part of our commitment to quality and continuous improvement, Audit Scotland will periodically seek your views on the quality of our service provision. We welcome feedback at any time and this may be directed to the engagement lead.

Tayside Valuation Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2018/19

If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language, please contact us to discuss your needs: 0131 625 1500 or info@audit-scotland.gov.uk

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