



HENDERSON LOGGIE
Chartered Accountants

Motherwell College

**Annual Audit Report for 2012/13
to the Board of Management and
the Auditor General for Scotland**

External Audit Report No: 2013/02

**Draft Issued: 22 November 2013
3 December 2013**

Final Issued: 5 December 2013



Contents

	Page
1. Executive Summary	1 - 2
2. Introduction	3 - 4
3. Financial Statements	5 - 9
4. Corporate Governance	10 -12
5. Performance	13 - 14
6. Outlook	15 - 16
Appendix 1 – Audited Bodies’ Responsibilities	17 - 18

Notice: About this report

This report has been prepared in accordance with our responsibilities under International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and those set out within Audit Scotland’s Code of Audit Practice (‘the Code’) and Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies.

This report is for the benefit of only Motherwell College and is made available to Audit Scotland (together with the beneficiaries), and has been released to the beneficiaries on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole or in part, without prior written consent.

Nothing in this report constitutes a valuation or legal advice.

We have not verified the reliability or accuracy of any information obtained in the course of our work, other than the limited circumstances set out in the scope and objectives section of this report.

This report is not suitable to be relied on by any party wishing to acquire rights against Henderson Loggie CA (other than the beneficiaries) for any purpose or in any context. Any party other than the beneficiaries that obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on this report (or any part of it) does so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law Henderson Loggie CA does not assume any responsibility and will not accept any liability in respect of this report to any party other than the beneficiaries.



Executive Summary

Financial Statements

- On 5 December 2013 we issued an audit report with an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the College for the year ended 31 July 2013 and on the regularity of the financial transactions reflected in those financial statements.
- The annual financial statements of the College comply with the Accounts Direction issued by SFC and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on Accounting for Further and Higher Education.
- There were no potential adjustments identified during the audit process.
- A small number of disclosure and clarification adjustments were made to the financial statements to ensure SORP and Accounts Direction compliance and improve the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- The College continued its opportunity for voluntary severance during the year to 31 July 2013. The total costs of early retirements/voluntary severance payments for 2012/13 was £0.101 million (2011/12- £1.421 million).
- The Group has shown a surplus for the year of £0.526 million (2011/12 - £0.523 million), and an Income and Expenditure Account balance of £23.334 million at 31 July 2013 (31/07/12 - £21.034 million).
- The College's position is a surplus for the year of £0.363 million (2011/12 - £0.397 million) and an Income and Expenditure Account balance of £22.012 million at 31 July 2013 (31/07/12 - £19.864 million).
- The College embarked on new estates projects, Student Hub and HGV Facility, during 2012/13 which have cost £0.168 million to date. Future commitments, including the two projects above, total £6.576 million.
- The College's land and buildings were revalued at the end of 2012/13 financial year and the revaluation was incorporated into the financial statements.

Corporate Governance

- The College's Corporate Governance Statement confirms that the College complies with all of the provisions of the 2010 UK Corporate Governance Code in so far as they apply to the further education sector, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2013.
- No material weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems were identified during the 2012/13 financial statements audit which would adversely affect the ability to record, process, summarise and report financial and other relevant data so as to result in a material misstatement in the financial statements.
- We did not identify any matters of concern relating to the College's corporate governance arrangements regarding the prevention and detection of fraud, or standards of conduct and the prevention and detection of corruption.
- The College has an on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing its significant risks.



Executive Summary

Performance

- The College management and committee structure includes mechanisms to monitor and manage financial and non-financial performance. This appears to work well in practice.

Outlook

- Cumbernauld College joined Motherwell College to form New Lanarkshire College, with Motherwell College as the host. The vesting date for this merger was 1 November 2013. Coatbridge College plans to join the merger on 1 April 2014.
- The Motherwell and Cumbernauld combination will be treated as a merger for accounting purposes as opposed to an acquisition. The subsequent joining of Coatbridge College will also be treated as a merger.
- In order to be ready for the merger on 1 November 2013, Motherwell College undertook a substantial amount of work prior to that date. A significant amount remains to be completed under the new merged college for the region, New College Lanarkshire.
- Following reclassification as Central Government bodies the financial year-end of colleges is changing from the academic year-end of 31 July to the Government year-end of 31 March. The first financial period under this new regime will be the eight months from 1 August 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- The format of financial statements will also have to change from 1 April 2014 as Central Government bodies use the Government Financial Reporting Manual ('the FReM'). The changes for 2014/15 are not significant as the Education SORP takes precedence over the FReM.
- A new SORP incorporating International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) accounting has been developed in line with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102. This will be finalised in 2014 and is expected to apply to accounts for 2015/16 onwards. The 2014/15 comparative figures and opening balances at 1 April 2014 will require restatement in the new format.
- The funding position will remain challenging.

Points for New College Lanarkshire to Consider

- Good governance arrangements have been put in place for the Estates projects and the New College Lanarkshire's Board of Management will need to ensure that these are maintained.



Introduction

Background

1. 2012/13 was the second year of our appointment as external auditors of Motherwell College ('the College'). Following the merger of Motherwell College with Cumbernauld College on 1 November 2013 we have been appointed by Audit Scotland as auditors of New College Lanarkshire.
2. This report summarises our opinion and conclusions and highlights significant issues arising from our work for the 2012/13 audit. It covers the communication of findings from the audit required by ISA 260: Communication of Audit Matters with Those Charged with Governance.
3. The audit framework is outlined in our Strategic Planning Memorandum and 2012/13 Annual Audit Plan issued on 3 June 2013 and considered and approved by the Audit Committee on 24 June 2013. The scope of the audit was to:
 - provide an opinion on, to the extent required by the relevant authorities, the financial statements and the regularity of transactions in accordance with the standards and guidance issued by the Auditing Practices Board;
 - review and report on the College's corporate governance arrangements in relation to systems of internal control, the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularity, standards of conduct, and prevention and detection of corruption; and the College's financial position; and
 - review and report on the College's arrangements to manage its performance, as they relate to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.
4. Our audit approach focused on the identification of the significant risk areas facing the College and the significant classes of transactions, estimates, other account balances and disclosures impacting upon the financial statements. These include:
 - compliance with legislation and financial regulations;
 - fixed assets transactions, including consideration of any impairment, revaluation of land and buildings and the potential impact on the financial statements; the estates development strategy implementation; on-going estate improvements and maintenance; and compliance with relevant financial reporting standards;
 - recoverability of debtors;
 - recognition of funding provided for specific purposes and the regularity of corresponding expenditure;
 - compliance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 Retirement Benefits and provision for pension liabilities for early retirees;
 - the financial results of the College's subsidiary company and the impact on the Group financial statements; and
 - compliance with the SORP on Accounting for Further and Higher Education.



Introduction

Basis of Information

5. External auditors do not act as a substitute for the College's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
6. To a certain extent the content of this report comprises general information that has been provided by, or is based on discussions with, management and staff of the College. Except to the extent necessary for the purposes of the audit, this information has not been independently verified. The contents of this report should not be taken as reflecting the views of Henderson Loggie CA except where explicitly stated as being so.
7. As our audit is designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole, our report cannot be expected to include all the possible comments and recommendations that a more extensive special examination would bring to light.

Acknowledgement

8. Our audit has brought us in contact with a range of College staff. We wish to place on record our appreciation of the co-operation and assistance extended to us by staff in the discharge of our responsibilities.



Financial Statements

Audit Opinion

9. On 5 December 2013 we issued an audit report with an unqualified opinion on the Financial Statements of the College for the year to 31 July 2013 and on the regularity of the financial transactions reflected in those financial statements.
10. We are required to undertake audit work from the Balance Sheet date up to the date of signing the financial statements and this was undertaken for the period up to 5 December 2013. No post balance sheet events were identified that required adjustment to be made to the financial statements or additional disclosure in a note thereto.

Audit Completion

11. An important measure of proper financial control and accountability is the timely closure and publication of audited financial statements. Table 1 summarises the three key elements of the audit process.

Table 1: Key elements of the audit process

Completeness of draft financial statements

A set of draft financial statements was received prior to the start of the final audit visit. These were of a high standard and required minimal presentational changes as part of the audit process.

Quality of supporting working papers

In accordance with our normal practice, we issued a 'prepared by client' request that set out a number of documents required for our audit of the financial statements. A full set of supporting working papers were provided in line with this list from the outset of the audit and were of a suitably high standard.

Response to audit queries

We are pleased to note that all audit queries were dealt with in a timely manner.

Corporate Governance Statement

12. Colleges are required to include a statement on their corporate governance arrangements within their annual financial statements. The statement describes the ways in which the College has complied with good practice in corporate governance, including the arrangements for risk management.
13. We are required to review the statement to assess whether the description of the process adopted in reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control appropriately reflects the process and report where the statement is not consistent with our knowledge of the body and report if the statement does not comply with SFC requirements.
14. The College's corporate governance statement for 2012/13 states the College complies with all of the provisions of the June 2010 UK Corporate Governance Code in so far as they apply to the further education sector, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2013.
15. From our audit work and our review of the College's statement we have no issues to report within our audit opinion.

**Audit and Accounting Adjustments and Confirmation**

16. There were no potential audit and accounting adjustments identified during the audit process.
17. Last year, it was identified that the early retirement provision for the SPF Scheme, which had been accounted for on the basis of the actuary report and valuation as in prior years, included an element of double counting for unfunded benefits amounting to £0.034 million as provision had already been made in the financial statements for unfunded early retirals. The effect of correction would have been to decrease the early retirement provision at 31 July 2012 and increase the surplus for the year by £0.034 million. It was agreed not to adjust this last year on the basis that the value involved was not material and that the finance team would resolve the position in the 2012-13 financial statements. This year we have confirmed that unfunded benefits have been correctly provided for in the 2012-13 financial statements and that there is no longer any element of double counting.
18. A small number of disclosure and clarification adjustments were made to the financial statements to ensure SORP and Accounts Direction compliance and improve the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Confirmations and Representations

19. We confirm that as at the date of this report, in our professional judgement, Henderson Loggie CA was independent within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements and the objectivity of audit staff was not impaired.
20. In accordance with auditing standards, we obtained representations from the College on material issues.



Financial Statements

Financial Position

21. SFC circular SFC/31/2009, issued on 16 October 2009, defines a sustainable college as one which 'continually develops the quality of its learning activities to meet the changing needs of its customers, society and the economy, controls its costs, and year on year secures sufficient income to resource its planned activities and enable a level of current and future investment necessary to maintain its assets.'
22. Table 3 provides a summary of the Group's planned and actual financial results, based on the formal returns submitted by the College to the Funding Council.

Table 3: Comparison of planned and actual financial results

	2011/12 Actual £000	2012/13 Planned £000	2012/13 Actual £000	Merged 2012/13 Planned £000
Financial outturn Surplus	523	180	526	-
Income and expenditure reserves	21,034	22,461	23,344	22,432
Cash balances	3,990	3,980	5,039	8,691

Source: Audited financial statements and Financial Forecast Return (FFR)

23. Overall, the Group's income in 2012/13 has increased by £0.057 million (4.8%) over 2011/12 to £29.790 million. The Group's expenditure has decreased by £0.060 million (0.2%) over 2011/12 to £29.324 million.
24. The 2011/12 surplus was arrived at following significant charges for exceptional staff items (see paragraph 28) which means that the underlying position for that year and the current 2012/13 year is sustainable. Income in both years includes SFC economic downturn funding.

2012/13 SUMs Outturn

25. The College's outturn against its 2012/13 SUMs target is shown in table 4.

Table 4: 2012/13 SUMs outturn

	2011/12	2012/13
SUMS target	89,368	88,568
SUMS actual	88,907	90,282

Source: Audited SUMs returns

26. The audit of the SUMs return for 2012/13 was carried out by Scott-Moncrieff who concluded that the student data returns have been compiled in accordance with all relevant guidance, that adequate procedures are in place to ensure the accurate collection and recording of data; and, on the basis of testing, reasonable assurance can be taken that the FES return contained no material mis-statement.



Financial Statements

Financial Position (Continued)

27. The 2013/14 Weighted SUMs (WSUMs) target for the Motherwell campus of the New College Lanarkshire has been revised upward to 96,881 as advised in the Lanarkshire Region Outcome Agreement 2013-14 issued by the SFC in June 2013.

FRS 17 Retirement Benefits

28. In 2012/13 the College accounted for its participation in the local government pension scheme as if it were a defined benefit scheme. This is consistent with the accounting treatment adopted in previous years.

Provisions

29. The College has a provision in its balance sheet for £0.996 million (31/07/12 - £1.037 million) relating to pension costs from early retirements awarded to former employees. The College's approach to the valuation of the provision is to apply SFC actuarial tables on a consistent basis. The SFC issued guidance for the use of a net interest rate of 2% (2011/12 - 1.5%) which has been used by the College for 2012/13. We concluded that the provision has been correctly calculated, included and disclosed in the financial statements.
30. The College continued its opportunity for voluntary severance during the year to 31 July 2013 and at the year end there are some applications from members of staff that were still being considered. An estimated cost of approximately £0.140 million for these applications has been included in the year end voluntary severance provisions accrued (31/07/12 - £0.495 million). The total costs of early retirements/voluntary severance payments for 2012/13 was £0.101 million (2011/12- £1.421 million) and are disclosed in the total exceptional staff costs detailed in note 6.02 of the financial statements. We reviewed the accuracy and disclosure of voluntary severance costs and concluded that the amounts have been correctly included and disclosed in the financial statements.
31. The College opened a new voluntary severance scheme in response to the merger with Cumbernauld and Coatbridge Colleges. This scheme was offered to College staff on 12 September 2013 with a closing date for applications of 11 October 2013. No provision has been made for this voluntary severance scheme in the 2012/13 financial statements and this treatment has been confirmed as being appropriate since the scheme was not offered to staff members until after the 2012/13 year end. It is understood that the costs of this voluntary severance scheme will be funded by SFC, up to a maximum limit set by SFC, with the expectation that voluntary severance packages will have a one year payback period.

Capital Income and Expenditure

32. The Group purchased tangible fixed assets with a value of £0.697 million in the year (2011/12 - £0.215 million) relating to property, plant and equipment. Of these assets £0.327 million have been funded from SFC formula capital funding. Deferred capital grants have been correctly treated in line with relevant fixed assets.
33. The Group received a Stamp Duty Land Tax refund of £0.265 million during the year which has been offset against capital additions in the year.



Financial Statements

Financial Position (Continued)

Capital Income and Expenditure (Continued)

34. Large capital projects are now underway within Motherwell College and funding of these is planned from accumulated reserves. In order to be certain that this funding mechanism can be used, these projects need to be completed by 1 April 2014. It is currently unclear whether accumulated reserves will be available to fund these projects after this date under central government budget arrangements. It is the intention of the board to address this issue through the provision of an arm's length trust and other mechanisms.
35. The campus was originally completed in 2008/09 and has been carried at cost in the financial statements to date. The valuation of the campus was updated at the end of the 2012/13 year end using information provided by Gardiner Theobold (GT), Surveyors. GT were involved in the original campus construction. BCIS Indices were provided by Gardiner Theobold which have been used by the College finance team to uplift the year end campus valuation.
36. In the past, the College has appropriately componentised its fixed assets into sub categories in order to apply the most relevant depreciation rates. Following on from the revaluation of fixed assets in the current year, it is planned that New College Lanarkshire will continue with componentisation in the 2013/14 financial statements.
37. Negotiations continue with Miller Construction (UK) Limited regarding remedial works on the heating and ventilation system at the Motherwell Campus. As noted last year, the costs involved and which party will be liable are uncertain and so this event has been correctly disclosed in the financial statements as a contingent liability.



Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance

38. The College is responsible for ensuring that governance arrangements follow the three fundamental principles of openness, integrity and accountability and that these arrangements are in place to ensure the proper conduct of its affairs. Mechanisms to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements should also be in place.
39. Our responsibility, as noted in the Code of Audit Practice, is to review and report on audited bodies' corporate governance arrangements as they relate to:
- Bodies' reviews of corporate governance and systems of internal control, including reporting arrangements
 - The prevention and detection of fraud and irregularity
 - Standards of conduct and arrangements for the prevention and detection of corruption
 - The financial position of audited bodies
40. Comments on the financial position and the College's Corporate Governance Statement are covered in the Financial Statement section of this report. The Corporate Governance Statement does not identify any significant areas for improvement.
41. We have considered the College's governance arrangements through formal review of documents and procedures and informal observation of the operation of committee arrangements and the relationships between Board members and staff. In particular we have considered arrangements for risk management and reporting to committees. We did not identify any areas of concern regarding the College's governance arrangements.



Systems of Internal Control

Control Environment

42. No material weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems were identified during the 2012/13 financial statements audit which would adversely affect the ability to record, process, summarise and report financial and other relevant data so as to result in a material misstatement in the financial statements.
43. We performed testing during the year-end audit and we concluded that in general the key controls for the main financial systems tested were in place and operating as expected. No significant weaknesses or issues were found that would impact adversely on the accounts or our year-end audit.

Internal Audit

44. Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice directs us to maintain effective co-ordination with internal audit and place the maximum possible reliance on their work. Deloitte provided internal audit services to the College in 2012/13. We have reviewed the scope and extent of work performed by internal audit during the year and considered the impact of their findings and conclusions on our work, where appropriate. We have also considered the adequacy of the provision and are content that the audit service is of good quality.
45. The annual internal audit report issued in September 2013 did not identify any issues that affect our audit conclusions.

Risk Management

46. Risk management is important for the development and on-going review of systems of internal control.
47. The College had an on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing its significant risks. A risk management policy and risk management procedures were in place that actively monitored and reported on risk at an operational and strategic level. There are clear links drawn between the key risks in the register and the College's Strategic Plan.
48. During the year the risk management approach was changed to encompass the planned merger and we agreed the approach taken was appropriate.
49. The major estates projects utilise professional project managers who have detailed project risk registers which are monitored and updated on a regular basis.



Corporate Governance

Fraud and Irregularity, Standards and Conduct, and Prevention and Detection of Corruption

50. During 2012/13 we had regard to ISA 240: The Auditor's Responsibility to Consider Fraud in the Audit of Financial Statements.
51. The College had appropriate arrangements in place, including current versions of its Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and a Prevention of Fraud Policy. These documents were reviewed and updated annually.
52. No frauds were identified during 2012/13 or in the period since 31 July 2013 to the date of this report.
53. The College had in place the following procedures/policies in relation to standards of conduct and prevention and detection of corruption. These were reviewed and updated regularly.
 - Code of Conduct for Board Members
 - Register of Board Members' and Senior Staff Interests
 - Fraud and Corruption Policy (including Bribery Act)
54. The arrangements for maintaining standards of conduct and the prevention and detection of corruption are considered to have been appropriate.

Performance

Performance Audit

55. The terms of appointment from Audit Scotland include a requirement for a proportion of our audit time to be spent on performance audit work. Performance audit work covers a variety of areas, both financial and non-financial, including both Audit Scotland centrally directed studies and locally determined studies based on agreement between each organisation and their auditors.
56. No mandatory performance audit studies were identified by Audit Scotland for the College during 2012/13.

National Performance Reports

57. *Scotland's Colleges – current finances, future challenges* was issued in October 2012. The report makes recommendations for the Scottish Government, the SFC, and existing colleges and regional boards. In particular the report made recommends around strategic planning for course provision; ensuring that planning for course provision is based on robust financial and other resource plans; effective management of mergers; opportunities to reduce costs through economies of scale, joint working and better partnership working; and workforce planning.' These issues have featured in the planning for the merger with Cumbernauld and Coatbridge Colleges.
58. *Scotland's colleges 2013* was published in August 2013 and provided an update on the college sector and the progress being made towards structural reform. The following key recommendations were identified for colleges:
- identify the risks to future capacity and ability to meet learning needs associated with reducing staff numbers, and take appropriate steps to mitigate these risks;
 - consider what steps are required to meet the needs of older people and other groups of learners; and
 - implement the Scottish Government's recommendations to improve the application process to help monitor the demand for college places.

College Performance Arrangements

59. Audit Scotland reports were considered by the Senior Executive Team (SET) and where appropriate the Principal updated the Board or appropriate committee where the content and recommendations were relevant to the College.
60. Arrangements for financial and non-financial management were well established in the College, through the operation of the SET and the Board and its various committees.
61. The College's Board of Management's Constitution and Articles of Governance and its Schemes of Delegated Authority recorded the performance management aspects of the Board and each committee, and where appropriate, their responsibility to take action to address issues in performance. Discussion with managers and our review of meeting papers and minutes confirms these responsibilities appeared to be undertaken in an appropriate manner.
62. The College's arrangements for performance management as outlined above are considered to have been appropriate.



Performance

Performance Audit (Continued)

Education Scotland Review

63. We are required by Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice to contribute to the 'whole organisation' approach to inspection through co-ordination amongst auditors, inspectors and other scrutiny bodies. We therefore place reliance on the reported results of the work of statutory inspectorates in relation to corporate or service performance.

64. Education Scotland published a report on the education provision of the College in its annual engagement review issued in April 2013. The report noted that progress had been made in addressing all of the key priority areas raised by Education Scotland following its full review of the College in June 2012 and identified three examples of excellent practice within the College.

Outlook

2013/14 and Beyond

Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013

65. The Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013 makes provision: about the support for, and the governance of, further and higher education institutions, including provision for the regionalisation of colleges; for reviews of how further and higher education is provided; for sharing information about young people's involvement in education and training; and for connected purposes. The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 26 June 2013 and received Royal Assent on 7 August 2013.
66. Under the Act, Motherwell College is part of the Lanarkshire region, along with Coatbridge, Cumbernauld, and South Lanarkshire Colleges. It was anticipated that a new Regional Strategic Body would be created which would, amongst other things, be responsible for distributing funds to the individual colleges in the region. All colleges in the region would be assigned to the Regional Body. Creation of the Regional Body requires further legislative action and on 23 October 2013 the Scottish Government began a consultation about this process. They are seeking views on whether a new body should be created or whether New College Lanarkshire should become the Regional Body. The consultation closes on 17 January 2014 in relation to the questions about the Lanarkshire Region.
67. Cumbernauld College joined Motherwell College to form New Lanarkshire College, with Motherwell College as the host. The vesting date for this merger was 1 November 2013. Coatbridge College plans to join the merger on 1 April 2014.
68. The Motherwell and Cumbernauld combination will be treated as a merger for accounting purposes as opposed to an acquisition. The subsequent joining of Coatbridge College will also be treated as a merger.
69. In order to be ready for the merger on 1 November 2013, Motherwell College undertook a substantial amount of work prior to that date. A significant amount remains to be completed under the new merged college, New College Lanarkshire.
70. The governance structure for the New College Lanarkshire was approved at the December board meeting.

Regional Outcome Agreement

71. A Regional Outcome Agreement with the SFC has been finalised and the regional allocation of funding agreed for 2013/14.
72. The Motherwell campus' indicative allocations for 2013/14 are teaching grant of £16,217 million and capital funding of £0.845 million.
73. In June 2013 the Associate Director of Finance presented a draft budget for the Motherwell campus for 2013/14 to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for recommendation to the Board of Management. This showed a break-even position.

Outlook

2013/14 and Beyond (Continued)

ONS Reclassification

74. There has been significant discussion within the sector regarding the Office of National Statistics (ONS) decision to reclassify incorporated colleges in Scotland as Central Government bodies from 1 April 2014. This has a number of implications for budgeting, reporting and accounting practices and issues for consideration which the SFC has addressed through a series of Reclassification Communications.
75. The immediate practical impact of this change is that colleges' financial year-end will move from 31 July to 31 March, with the first set of March financial statements being produced for the eight month period to 31 March 2014. The format of financial statements will also have to change from 1 April 2014 as Central Government bodies use the Government Financial Reporting Manual ('the FReM'). The changes for 2014/15 are not significant as the Education SORP takes precedence over the FReM. No changes in accounting treatment are likely to be required although additional disclosure will be required, particularly in relation to remuneration and out-turn against budget.
76. One key item that will require decisions and action before 1 April 2014 is in relation to the setting up of an arms-length foundation or trust. The Central Government budget mechanisms mean that the ability to use college reserves and surpluses in future periods is likely to be restricted. One proposed solution to this is for cash-backed income and expenditure reserves and future surpluses to be transferred to an arms-length foundation or trust in order to take these resources outwith the consolidated budget boundary and therefore out of the college budget. There are risks to this in that to be independent and avoid consolidation the college must relinquish control of how the funds will be spent, however this is being considered widely by colleges throughout Scotland. This is currently being considered by the New College Lanarkshire.

Further and Higher Education SORP 2015 Exposure Draft Consultation

77. A new SORP incorporating International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) accounting has been developed in line with FRS 102 and is currently being consulted on (closing date for comments is 17 November 2013). This will be finalised in 2014 and is expected to apply to financial statements for 2015/16 onwards. The 2014/15 comparative figures and opening balances at 1 April 2014 will require restatement in the new format. Further guidance on the changes required is planned once the SORP has been finalised.

Waste

78. The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 come into effect on 1 January 2014 for all business and organisations in Scotland. This new regulation requires key recyclable material and food waste to be presented for separate collection with the aim of helping Scotland reach its ambitious target of 70% recycling of all waste by 2025. We considered the arrangements at the College and found there to be adequate procedures already in place to meet the new regulation.



Appendix 1

Audited Bodies' Responsibilities

Extracts from the Audit Scotland Code of Audit Practice

The Scottish ministers, elected members, governing bodies, boards, accountable officers, managers and officials have primary responsibility for ensuring that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is handled with integrity and spent appropriately. Public bodies and those responsible for conducting their affairs must discharge this accountability by establishing and maintaining proper governance arrangements and effective stewardship of the resources at their disposal.

Financial statements

Audited bodies' financial statements are an essential part of accounting for their stewardship of the resources made available to them and their performance in the use of those resources. Audited bodies are responsible for:

- ensuring the regularity of transactions, by putting in place systems of internal control to ensure that they are in accordance with the appropriate authority
- maintaining proper accounting records
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of their financial position and their expenditure and income, in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework (eg, the Financial Reporting Manual or an Accounting Code of Practice)
- preparing and publishing with their financial statements an annual governance statement, statement on internal control or statement on internal financial control and a remuneration report
- preparing consolidation packs and, in larger bodies, preparing a Whole of Government Accounts return

Many audited bodies publish other information, such as an annual report, alongside the financial statements.

Audited bodies should prepare financial statements in accordance with statutory timescales or in good time to allow audits to be completed by any dates specified by sponsoring directorates or other bodies (eg, the relevant Scottish Government Health Directorate for NHS bodies). Financial statements should be prepared in accordance with all relevant regulatory requirements and be supported by accounting records and working papers prepared to an acceptable professional standard.

Corporate governance arrangements

The three fundamental principles of corporate governance – openness, integrity and accountability – apply to all audited bodies, whether their members are elected or appointed, or whether they comprise groups of people or an individual accountable officer

Through its chief executive or accountable officer, each body is responsible for establishing arrangements for ensuring the proper conduct of its affairs including the legality of activities and transactions, and for monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Audited bodies usually involve those charged with governance (including audit committees or similar groups) in monitoring these arrangements.

Appendix 1

Audited Bodies' Responsibilities

Systems of internal control

Audited bodies are responsible for developing and implementing systems of internal control, including risk management, financial, operational and compliance controls.

They are required to conduct annual reviews of the effectiveness of their governance, systems of internal control, or internal financial control, and report publicly that they have done so. Such reviews should take account of the work of internal audit and be carried out by those charged with governance, usually through bodies' audit committees.

Rigorous self-evaluation should be a central part of audited bodies' performance management to support continuous improvement.

Prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities

Audited bodies are responsible for establishing arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularity.

This includes:

- developing, promoting and monitoring compliance with standing orders and financial instructions
- developing and implementing strategies to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularity
- receiving and investigating alleged breaches of proper standards of financial conduct or fraud and irregularity
- participating, when required, in data matching exercises carried out by Audit Scotland

Standards of conduct and arrangements for the prevention and detection of bribery and corruption

Audited bodies are responsible for ensuring that their affairs are managed in accordance with proper standards of conduct and should put proper arrangements in place for:

- implementing and monitoring compliance with appropriate guidance on standards of conduct and codes of conduct for members and officers
- promoting appropriate values and standards
- developing, promoting and monitoring compliance with standing orders and financial instructions

Financial position of audited bodies

Audited bodies are responsible for conducting their affairs and for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that their financial position is soundly based having regard to:

- such financial monitoring and reporting arrangements as may be specified
- compliance with any statutory financial requirements and achievement of financial targets
- balances and reserves, including strategies about levels and future use
- the impact of planned future policies and foreseeable developments on their financial position

Best Value

The Scottish Public Finance Manual explains that accountable officers appointed by the Principal Accountable Officer for the Scottish Administration have a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure Best Value. Best Value is defined as the continuous improvement in the performance of functions. This includes having regard to the concepts of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and the need to meet equal opportunity requirements, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

Achievement of Best Value or value for money depends on the existence of sound management arrangements for services, including procedures for planning, appraisal, authorisation and control accountability and evaluation of the use of resources. Audited bodies are responsible for ensuring that these matters are given due priority and resources, and that proper procedures are established and operate satisfactorily.