

North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2019/20



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

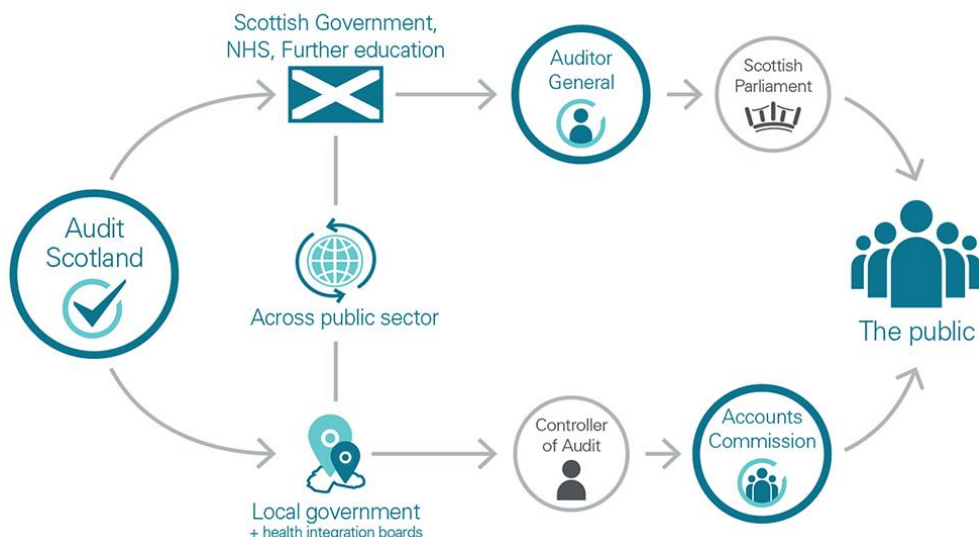
Prepared for North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board

February 2020

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 which is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the [Code of Audit Practice](#), and [guidance on planning the audit](#). This plan sets out the work necessary to allow us to provide an independent auditor's report on the annual accounts and meet the wider scope requirements of public sector audit.

2. The wider scope of public audit contributes to assessments and conclusions on financial management, financial sustainability, governance and transparency and value for money.


Adding value


3. We aim to add value to North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (the Integration Joint 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 Integration Joint Board promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.

Audit risks

4. Based on our discussions with staff, attendance at committee meetings and a review of supporting information we have identified the following significant risks for the Integration Joint Board. We have categorised these risks into financial statements risks and wider dimension risks as detailed in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1 2019/20 Significant audit risks

 Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statements risks		
<p>1 Risk of management override of controls</p> <p>Auditing Standards require that audits are planned to consider the risk of material misstatement caused by 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 in the financial statements.</p>	<p><i>Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable in this instance.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance from partner body auditors on the accuracy and completeness of year end financial reports. Check accuracy and completeness of consolidation of financial reports from the two partners. Detailed testing of significant adjustments at year end. Review of financial monitoring reports during the year.

	Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
2	<p>Risk of inaccurate accounting for income and expenditure relating to childrens, families and justice social work services</p> <p>The Integration Scheme was revised with effect from 1 April 2019 to transfer the discretionary delegated functions for children, families and justice social work services back to North Lanarkshire Council. The expenditure relating to these services is estimated to be around £19m, which is material to the financial statements. The chief financial officer is still working with the council to disaggregate the income and expenditure relating to these services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation of budget transfer. • Internal audit financial due diligence review of changes to the Integration Scheme arising from the transfer of children, families and justice social work services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on the internal audit financial due diligence review of changes to the Integration Scheme arising from the transfer of children, families and justice social work services. • Assurance from North Lanarkshire Council auditor on the accuracy and completeness of income and expenditure. • Income and expenditure in the annual accounts will be verified to the information provided by North Lanarkshire Council at the year end.
Wider dimension risks			
3	<p>Risk to financial sustainability</p> <p>Recent financial monitoring reports forecast a £3.6 million overspend on social care services due to demand pressures and a delay in the delivery of planned savings. The Integration Joint Board may need to resort to an unplanned use of reserves again this year and this is not sustainable. The development of a medium/long term financial plan is important to enable the Integration Joint Board to manage and respond to financial risks going forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular financial monitoring and reporting, including the development of a budget recovery plan to address areas of overspend. • Development of a medium/long term financial plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review financial monitoring reports during the year and the budget recovery plan. • Review the medium/long term financial plan when available for reasonableness. • Consider the 2020/21 revenue budget and plans to address any funding gap.
4	<p>Risk to effective financial management</p> <p>Our previous annual audit reports for the Integration Joint Board have identified improvements required to the financial reporting process. This includes the timing of the quarter one financial report and the availability of year end forecasts. There is a risk that financial pressures are not identified and managed in a timely manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with North Lanarkshire Council to obtain financial information required to report the financial position in August 2020. • Continue to engage with NHS Lanarkshire to obtain year end forecasts for health care services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review financial monitoring during the year and report progress against 2018/19 audit recommendations.

Source: Audit Scotland

Reporting arrangements

5. Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit and is detailed in [Exhibit 2](#). All outputs will be published on our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

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

7. We will provide an independent auditor's report to the Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission for Scotland setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will also provide the members of the Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission for Scotland with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen during the audit.

Exhibit 2

2019/20 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	5 February 2020	19 February 2020
Independent Auditor's Report	30 September 2020*	22 September 2020
Annual Audit Report	30 September 2020*	22 September 2020

Source: Audit Scotland

*These dates represent the certification for the 2019/20 IJB accounts. However, we will agree an audit timetable to report the findings from the audit to those charged with governance prior to the certification of the annual accounts.

Audit fee

8. The agreed audit fee for the 2019/20 audit of North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board is £26,560 (2018/19: £25,000). In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of the Integration Joint 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 annual accounts, with a complete working papers package on 15 June 2020.

9. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited annual accounts 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

Chief Accountable Officer and Performance Finance and Audit Committee

10. 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.

11. The audit of the annual accounts does not relieve management or the Performance, Finance and Audit Committee as those charged with governance, of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

12. 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.

13. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements and other information within the annual accounts. We also review and

report on the arrangements within the audited body to manage its performance and use of resources. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Audit scope and timing

Annual accounts

14. The annual accounts, 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 Integration Joint Board and the associated risks
- assessing the key systems of internal control, and establishing the impact of any identified weaknesses
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how the Integration Joint 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.

15. We will give an opinion on whether the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2019/20 Code of the state of affairs of the Integration Joint Board as at 31 March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2019/20 Code; and
- 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.



characteristics



responsibilities



principal activities



risks



governance arrangements

Statutory other information in the annual accounts

16. We also review and report on statutory 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.

17. We also review the content of the annual report for consistency with the financial statements and with our knowledge. We report any uncorrected material misstatements in statutory other information.

Materiality

18. 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.

19. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board are set out in [Exhibit 3](#).

Exhibit 3 Materiality values



Materiality	Amount
Planning materiality – This is the figure we calculate to assess the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. It has been set at 1% of gross expenditure based on the latest audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.	£6 million
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 65% of planning materiality. This judgement is based on the expectation of a low level of estimation and error and the assurance we plan to place on the work of the partner body auditors.	£4 million
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 3% of planning materiality (rounded up to the nearest £50,000).	£200,000

Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

20. To support the efficient use of resources it is critical that the annual accounts timetable is agreed with us. We have included an agreed timetable at [Exhibit 4](#).

Exhibit 4 Annual accounts timetable

 Key stage	 Date
Consideration of unaudited annual accounts by those charged with governance	26 May 2020
Submission of unaudited accounts with working papers package to audit	15 June 2020
Issue of draft annual audit report for clearance	25 August 2020
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Chief Financial Officer	1 September 2020
Agreement of audited unsigned annual accounts	8 September 2020
Issue of annual audit report, letter of representation and proposed independent auditor's report	
Consideration of audited annual accounts and audit reporting by those charged with governance	22 September 2020
Latest date for signing of independent auditor's report	30 September 2020

Source: Audit Scotland

Internal audit

21. Internal audit is provided by North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire. As part of our planning process we carried out an early assessment of the internal audit function and concluded that it has sound documentation standards and reporting procedures in place and operates in accordance with the main requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

Using the work of internal audit

22. 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.

23. From our initial review of internal audit plans we plan to place formal reliance on the internal audit financial due diligence review of the changes to the Integration Scheme arising from the transfer of children, families and justice social work services back to North Lanarkshire Council.

Audit dimensions

24. Our audit is based on four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit requirements as shown in [Exhibit 5](#).

Exhibit 5 Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

Financial sustainability

25. 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 financial sustainability in the medium term (two to five years) and longer term (longer than five years). 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.

Financial management

26. Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether arrangements are in place to ensure systems of internal control are operating effectively
- the effectiveness of budgetary control system in communicating accurate and timely financial performance can be demonstrated
- how the Integration Joint Board has assured itself that its financial capacity and skills are appropriate
- whether there are appropriate and effective arrangements in place for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.

Governance and transparency

27. 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 Integration Joint Board can demonstrate that the governance arrangements in place are appropriate and operating effectively
- whether there is effective scrutiny, challenge and transparency of decision-making
- the quality and timeliness of financial and performance reporting.

Value for money

28. Value for money refers to using resources effectively and continually improving services. We will review, conclude and report on whether the Integration Joint Board can:

- provide evidence that it is demonstrating value for money in the use of its resources
- demonstrate that there is a clear link between money spent, output and outcomes delivered
- show that outcomes are improving.

Best Value

29. Integration Joint Boards have a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value. We will review and report on these arrangements.

Independence and objectivity

30. 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.

31. The engagement lead (i.e. appointed auditor) for North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board is Brian Howarth, Audit Director. 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 North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board.

Quality control

32. 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.

33. 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 Accounts Commission 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.

34. 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.

North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board

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