

Western Isles Integration Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2019/20



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Western Isles Integration Joint Board (Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar)

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 including the audit of Best Value.

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 the Western Isles 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 Western Isles 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 risk for Western Isles Integration Joint Board. We have categorised these risks into financial statements risks and wider dimension risks. The key audit risks, which require specific audit testing, are 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 material misstatement caused by 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 the risk of management override of controls that results in fraudulent 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"> Assurances 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.

Wider dimension risks

2 Financial sustainability

At 31 March 2019, the IJB held reserves of £5.8m. This included £1.5m of unearmarked reserves (2.5% of net expenditure) to meet unforeseen contingencies.

£0.9m of unearmarked reserves were allocated to the 2019/20 budget to help bridge a budget gap of £3.1m. Monthly monitoring reports now indicate that as a result of overspends by both partner bodies the IJB will require to use all of its unearmarked reserves in order to break even in 2019/20.

In our 2018/19 Annual Audit Report we recommended that the IJB extend their financial strategy from three to five years and link it to the Strategic Plan and the Workforce Strategy.

There is a risk that the IJB does not have a clear view of its long-term financial position relative to its overall aims and strategic objectives.

- IJB Financial Strategy
- IJB Investment Strategy
- IJB Monthly monitoring reports
- IJB budget 2020/21
- Review the IJB final outturn and impact on levels of reserves
- Review progress in delivering the savings plan with a focus on the higher risk savings
- Review progress in agreeing a balanced budget for 2020/21 and evaluate the longer-term financial outlook
- Review the updated financial strategy
- Assess the level of detail and assumptions within the financial strategy for reasonableness
- Assess the level of scenario planning and sensitivity analysis contained within the financial strategy.

3 Governance & Transparency – loss of Senior Leadership

The Chief Officer of the IJB will leave his post in March 2020 resulting in a significant loss of leadership capacity.

There is a risk that this may impact on the Board's ability to deliver transformational change and long-term sustainability.

- Documentation in support of a new Integration Scheme
- Documented recruitment strategy for new Chief Officer
- Strategic Plan implementation schedule
- Review interim arrangements to support the delivery of services and transformational change
- Review progress in recruiting a successor to the current Chief Officer.
- Identify any implications for transformational change and financial sustainability.

Reporting arrangements

- 5.** 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.
- 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 Western Isles Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission for Scotland setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will provide 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

Annual Audit Plan	31 January 2020	12 February 2020
Independent Auditor's Report	September 2020*	9 September 2020
Annual Audit Report	September 2020*	9 September 2020

Source: Audit Scotland

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

Audit fee

- 8.** The proposed audit fee for the 2019/20 audit of Western Isles Integration Joint Board is £26,560 (2018/19: £25,000). In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of Western Isles 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 by 10 June 2020.
- 9.** Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited annual accounts, 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

Audit Committee and Chief Accountable Officer

- 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 Health and Social Care Integration Board and Audit Sub-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 Western Isles Integration Joint Board and the associated risks
- assessing the key systems of internal control, and establishing how weaknesses
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how Western Isles Integration Joint Board Western Isles 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 its affairs of the Integration Joint Board as at 31 March 2020 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRS 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.

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 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

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.



characteristics



responsibilities



principal activities



risks



governance arrangements

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

Exhibit 3 Materiality values

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 for the year ended 31 March 2020 based on budgeted expenditure.	£0.6 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 60% of planning materiality.	£0.36 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 and rounded to a memorable metric.	£20,000

Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

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

Exhibit 4 Annual accounts timetable

Consideration of unaudited annual report and accounts by those charged with governance	10 June 2020
Latest submission date of unaudited annual report and accounts with complete working papers package	10 June 2020
Issue of draft annual audit report for clearance	12 August 2020
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Chief Finance Officer	19 August 2020
Agreement of audited unsigned annual report and accounts	26 August 2020
Issue of annual audit report, letter of representation and proposed independent auditor's report	
Issue of Annual Audit Report including ISA 260 report to those charged with governance	9 September 2020
Independent auditor's report signed	30 September 2020

Internal audit

21. Internal audit is provided by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. 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 the main requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). ISA 610 requires an assessment on whether the work of the internal audit function can be used for the purposes of external audit. This includes:

- the extent to which the internal audit function's organisational status and relevant policies and procedures support the objectivity of the internal auditors
- the level of competence of the internal audit function
- whether the internal audit function applies a systematic and disciplined approach, including quality control.

22. We will report any significant findings to management on a timely basis.

Audit dimensions

23. 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

24. 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 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.

Financial management

25. 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

26. 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 on the decision-making and finance and performance reports.
- the quality and timeliness of financial and performance reporting.

Value for money

27. 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 demonstrate:

- value for money in the use of resources
- there is a clear link between money spent, output and outcomes delivered
- that outcomes are improving
- there is sufficient focus on improvement and the pace of it.

Best Value

28. 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

29. 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.

30. The engagement lead (i.e. appointed auditor) for Western Isles 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 Western Isles Integration Joint Board.

Quality control

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

Western Isles Integration Joint Board

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