

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee

Annual Audit Plan 2017/18



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee

February 2018

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

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 provides an overview of the planned scope and timing of our audit of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee (CVLDJC). Our audit is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the [Code of Audit Practice](#) issued by Audit Scotland and endorsed by the Accounts Commission.

2. The plan sets out the audit work necessary to allow us to provide an independent auditor's report and meet the wider scope requirements of public sector audit. The wider scope of public sector audit includes assessing arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and transparency and value for money. We make a public report of conclusions on these matters in our annual audit report to members and the Controller of Audit.

Audit risks

3. Based on discussions with staff and a review of supporting information we have identified the following main risk areas for CVLDJC. We have categorised these risks into financial risks and wider dimension risks. The key audit risks, which require specific audit testing, are set out at [exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1

2017/18 Key audit risks

Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statement 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.</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"> Review of journal entries. Testing of accruals and prepayments.

Reporting arrangements

4. This annual audit plan and the outputs set out in [exhibit 2](#), and any other outputs on matters of public interest, will be published on Audit Scotland's website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

5. Matters arising from our audit will be reported on a timely basis and will include agreed action plans. Draft reports will be issued to the relevant officer(s) to confirm factual accuracy prior to the issue and publication of final reports.

6. We will provide an independent auditor's report to the Joint Committee and the Accounts Commission setting out our opinion on the financial statements and other matters upon which we are required to provide an opinion. We will provide the section 95 officer and the Controller of Auditor with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen in the course of the audit.

Exhibit 2

2017/18 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Joint Committee meeting date
Annual Audit Report	6 July 2018	10 September 2018
Issue of independent auditor's report	10 September 2018*	10 September 2018

* The independent auditor's report will be signed by the certifying auditor after the annual accounts are approved by the joint committee.

Audit fee

7. The agreed audit fee for the 2017/18 audit of CVLDJC is £1,820 (£1,790 in 2016/17). In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of CVLDJC and the planned management assurances in place.

8. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited financial statements, a supplementary fee may be levied. An additional fee may also be required in relation to any work or other significant exercises outwith our planned audit activity.

Responsibilities

Joint Committee and section 95 officer

9. The Joint Committee and section 95 officer are responsible for ensuring the proper financial stewardship of public funds, compliance with relevant legislation, and establishing effective arrangements for governance and scrutiny.

10. The audit of the annual accounts does not relieve management or the Joint Committee of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

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

Audit scope and timing

Financial statements

12. The statutory financial statements audit will be the foundation and source for the majority 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 CVLDJC and the associated risks which could impact on the financial statements
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how CVLDJC 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.

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

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of CVLDJC and of the income and expenditure for the year
- have been properly prepared in accordance International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and interpreted and adapted by the Code of Audit Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.



characteristics



responsibilities



principal activities



risks



governance arrangements

Materiality

14. Materiality defines the maximum error that we are prepared to accept and still conclude that our audit objective has been achieved. It helps assist our planning of the audit and allows us to assess the impact of any audit adjustments to the financial statements. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for CVLDJC are set out in [exhibit 3](#).

Exhibit 3

Materiality values

Materiality level	Amount
Planning materiality – This is the figure we use in assessing the overall impact of potential audit adjustments to the financial statements. It has been set at 1% of gross expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017.	£670
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.	£500
Reporting threshold – We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements in excess of a predetermined reporting threshold. We consider that an appropriate figure of interest to members would be £100.	£100

Source: 2016/17 CVLDJC audited accounts

15. Items can be material by nature, rather than value; for example, a failure to comply with legislation. We review other information published with the financial statements including the management commentary, annual governance statement and the remuneration report. We will report to the Joint Committee as necessary.

Timetable

16. An agreed timetable is included at [exhibit 4](#) which takes account of submission requirements and Joint Committee meeting dates.

Exhibit 4

Financial statements timetable

 Key stage	 Date
Consideration of unaudited financial statements by those charged with governance	11 June 2018
Latest submission date of unaudited annual accounts with complete working papers package	15 June 2018
Latest date for final clearance meeting	29 June 2018
Latest date for agreement of audited unsigned financial statements; Issue of Annual Audit Report	6 July 2018
Issue of independent auditor's report	10 September 2018*

* The independent auditor's report will be signed by the certifying auditor after the annual accounts are approved by the joint committee.

Audit dimensions

17. Our audit is based on four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit requirements, [exhibit 5](#).

Exhibit 5

Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

Financial sustainability

18. 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

Financial management

19. 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 there were adequate arrangements in place during the year to ensure that proper controls were exercised over resources.

Governance and transparency

20. Governance and transparency is concerned with the effectiveness of scrutiny and governance arrangements; leadership and decision-making; and, the transparent reporting of financial and performance information. We will review, conclude and report on whether appropriate governance arrangements were in place and operated effectively during the year.

Value for money

21. Value for money refers to using resources effectively and continually improving services. We will review, conclude and report on whether the Joint Committee can demonstrate value for money in the use of resources.

Independence and objectivity

22. Auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission or Auditor General must comply with the Code of Audit Practice. 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 in place robust arrangements 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.

23. The engagement lead is Dave Richardson, 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 CVLDJC.

Quality control

24. 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.

25. 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 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 and external quality reviews. External quality reviews are conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

26. 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.

Adding Value

27. Through our audit work we aim to add value to the Joint Committee. We will do this by providing a summary of our audit activity in an Annual Audit Report. We will provide clear judgements and conclusions on how well the CVLDJC has discharged its responsibilities and how well it has demonstrated the effectiveness of its arrangements. Where appropriate we will recommend actions that support continuous improvement and highlight any areas of good practice identified from our audit work.

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee

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