

Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee

Annual Audit Plan 2020/21



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee

February 2021

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.

Impact of Covid-19

3. The public health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic has had a significant and profound effect on every aspect of Scottish society. Public services have been drastically affected, requiring immediate changes to the way they are provided. The impact on public finances has been unprecedented, which has necessitated both the Scottish and UK governments providing substantial additional funding for public services as well as support for individuals, businesses and the economy. It is likely that further financial measures will be needed and that the effects will be felt well into the future.

4. Public audit has an important contribution to the recovery and renewal of public services. The Auditor General, the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland are responding to the risks to public services and finances from Covid-19 across the full range of audit work including annual audits and the programme of performance audits. Audit Scotland views 2020/21 as a transitional year, leading in future to audit timetables which were possible before Covid-19. The well-being of audit teams and the delivery of high-quality audits remain paramount. Maintaining a pragmatic and flexible approach will enable change at short notice as new issues emerge, or current risks change in significance. Where this impacts on annual audits, an addendum to this annual audit plan may be necessary.

Adding value

5. We aim to add value to the Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee (the Park) 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 Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.

Extension of audit appointment

6. Auditors appointed under statute by the Accounts Commission are engaged for a five-year period. The current audit engagement was due to end after the conclusion of the 2020/21 audit. Normally at the end of each five-year period a new auditor is appointed, either Audit Scotland or a private sector accountancy firm. Covid-19 had an impact on the 2019/20 audits of public sector bodies and the vast majority of these audits were reported later than normal. Planning for and potentially reporting of 2020/21 annual audit work is also being affected. In October 2020 the Accounts Commission approved the extension of current audit appointments for a year to include the 2021/22 audit year. This decision reflects the need for stability and continuity given the longer-term impact of Covid-19 on

audited bodies and the difficulty of running the necessary audit procurement exercise during the pandemic.

Audit risks

7. Based on our discussions with staff, attendance at committee meetings and a review of supporting information we have identified the following significant risk for Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee. 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 2020/21 Significant audit risks

 Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statements risks		
<p>1 Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by the management override of controls</p> <p>International Auditing Standards require that audits are planned to consider the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements caused by fraud, which is presumed to be a significant risk in any audit. This includes the risk of fraud due to the management override of controls.</p>	<p>Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable in this instance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed testing of journal entries • Review of accounting estimates • Focused testing of accruals and prepayments • Evaluation of significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business
<p>2 Risk of material misstatement caused by fraud in revenue recognition.</p> <p>The majority of the Park's income is received through revenue contributions made by East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council as the constituent authorities. However, some income is also received from other sources, including rents and shop sales.</p> <p>The extent and complexity of income means there is an inherent risk of fraud in accordance with ISA 240. There is a risk that income may be misstated resulting in a material misstatement in the financial statements.</p>	<p>Member scrutiny through regular technical bulletin updates.</p> <p>Availability of the use of East Dunbartonshire Council's Corporate Fraud Team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical procedures on income streams • Detailed testing of revenue transactions focusing on the areas of greatest risk
<p>3 Risk of material misstatement caused by fraud in expenditure</p> <p>As most public-sector bodies are net expenditure bodies, the risk of fraud is more likely to occur in expenditure. There is a risk that expenditure may be misstated resulting in a material</p>	<p>Member scrutiny through regular technical bulletin updates.</p> <p>Sound system of internal controls in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical procedures on expenditure streams • Detailed testing of expenditure transactions focusing on the areas of greatest risk

 Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
<p>misstatement in the financial statements.</p>		
Wider dimension risks		
<p>4 Financial sustainability</p> <p>The majority of the Park's income is received from the constituent local authorities in the form of grant funding. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and budget constraints within the Park's local authority partners, there is a possibility income targets may not be realised.</p> <p>Furthermore, due to the ongoing Scottish Government restrictions, revenue from Trading and Events is also expected to decrease as a significant number of events were cancelled and non-essential shops closed. Provisions continue to be in place which could adversely impact on the Parks ability to maintain, develop and promote the park in line with the organisations service plan objectives.</p> <p>Grant funding is managed through the Minute of Agreement, which expired on 31 March 2019. A draft Minute of Agreement for the period 2019-2024 has been prepared that confirms funding will be provided on the same basis as the previous minute. However, this has yet to be approved by the Joint Management Committee.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council has made suitable revenue provision within its budget with this equating to that set out in the minute of agreement.</p> <p>In the event that income expectations are not realised, outwith the core grant, this will be subject to review and discussion at the board with mitigating actions agreed and recovery plan initiated.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council has also agreed to support the financial position of Group entities through the current challenges faced during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor developments through review of East Dunbartonshire Council Committee papers and minutes • Assess budget performance through audit of annual accounts
<p>5 Budget setting & monitoring</p> <p>Due to the nature of the funding arrangements of the Park there is no formal budget approval process carried out by the Joint Management Committee. The budgeted spend for the year is communicated to members through the use of budget monitoring reports which does not allow comparison with prior year spend and provides limited detail as to the reasons behind significant variances.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19, there have been no Joint Management Committee meetings held in 2020/21. Therefore, regular budgetary monitoring reports have not been presented for the Park to facilitate effective scrutiny. There is a risk that budget setting and monitoring is not transparent and</p>	<p>The Budget for the Mugdock Country Park is well established and its derivation follows a consistent process in accordance with the Minute of Agreement and monitored thereafter via the Joint Management Committee.</p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 has been such that the Management Committee has been stood down albeit the cycle of reporting has been maintained where items are 'to note' with these being issued as technical notes to the Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 2021/22 budget setting process for the Park • Ongoing review of available monitoring reports going to Council committee meetings.

	Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
	may not be based on accurate financial projections for the year.	Aspects of budgetary control will be reviewed to include prior year comparatives and enhanced narrative.	
6	<p>Governance & Transparency</p> <p>Joint Management Committee meetings have been suspended since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. Councillors have received regular technical bulletins as well as brief updates being included within the East Dunbartonshire Council committee papers. However, these have lacked detail, specifically in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Mugdock Strategy and Mugdock Business Plan for 2021-26 have not been approved no updates have been made to the risk register since March 2020 regular revenue budgetary reports for the Park have not been presented there have been no updates on the progress of the capital projects plan or the planned IT upgrade. 	<p>It is acknowledged that those processes established to provide good governance and transparency have been flexed to accommodate the ongoing implications from the current pandemic. It is not unreasonable to expect areas such as the business plan be re-evaluated following Covid-19 and as the park moves to establishing a 'new normal'. This may include a rebasing of the business strategy, risks and capital planning with progress being reported to the Joint Management Committee upon completion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review of reports presented to Council, for information relevant to the Park.

Source: Audit Scotland

Reporting arrangements

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

9. 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.

10. We will provide an independent auditor's report to Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee and the Accounts Commission setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will provide the Treasurer and Accounts Commission with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen during the audit.

Exhibit 2

2020/21 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	30 April	N/A - issued to members as a technical bulletin
Independent Auditor's Report	31 October	TBC
Annual Audit Report	31 October	TBC

Source: Audit Scotland

Audit fee

11. The proposed audit fee for the 2020/21 audit of the Park is £3,120 [2019/20 £3,050]. In determining the audit fee, we have taken account of the risk exposure of the Park, 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 14 June 2021.

12. 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

Joint Management Committee and Treasurer

13. 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.

14. The audit of the annual accounts does not relieve management or the Joint Management Committee as those charged with governance, of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

15. 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.

16. 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, regularity and use of resources. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Audit scope and timing

Annual accounts

17. 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 Park and the associated risks which could impact on the financial statements
- assessing the key systems of internal control, and establishing how weaknesses in these systems could impact on the financial statements
- identifying major transaction streams, balances and areas of estimation and understanding how the Park 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.

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

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable law and the 2020/21 Code, of the state of affairs of the Park as at 31 March 2021 and of the income and expenditure of the Park and its group for the year then ended.
- whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2020/21 Code.
- whether they have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Statutory other information in the annual accounts

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

20. 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

21. 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

22. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for the Park 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 for the year ended 31 March 2020 based on the latest audited accounts for 2020.	£3,944
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.	£2,366
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.	£120

Source: Audit Scotland

Timetable

23. 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

Key stage	Date
Consideration of unaudited annual accounts by those charged with governance	TBC
Latest submission date of unaudited annual report and accounts with complete working papers package	14 June
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Treasurer	TBC
Issue of Letter of Representation and proposed independent auditor's report	TBC
Agreement of audited unsigned annual report and accounts	TBC
Independent auditor's report signed	31 October
Issue of Annual Audit Report to those charged with governance	TBC

Internal audit

24. Internal audit is provided by the Internal Audit section of East Dunbartonshire Council. 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).

Using the work of internal audit

25. ISA 610 requires an assessment on whether the work of the internal audit function can be used for the purposes of external audit. In line with previous years, we plan to undertake a direct substantive testing approach to the audit of the annual report and accounts. Therefore, we do not require to place formal reliance on the work of internal audit for the audit of the annual report and accounts.

Audit dimensions

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

27. The Code of Audit Practice includes provisions relating to the audit of small bodies. Where the application of the full wider audit scope is judged by auditors not to be appropriate to an audited body then the annual audit work can focus on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement and the financial sustainability of the body and its services. In the light of the volume and lack of complexity of the financial transactions, we plan to apply the small body provisions of the Code to the 2020/21 audit of the Park.

Financial sustainability

28. 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

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 Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee is Peter Lindsay, Senior Audit Manager. Auditing and ethical standards require the appointed auditor Peter Lindsay to communicate any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of audit staff. We are not aware of any such relationships pertaining to the audit of the Park.

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.

Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee

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