



Audit and Standards Committee work plan 2019/20

Committee Audit and Standards

Date of meeting 22 February 2019

Date of report 12 February 2019

Report by Assistant Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To provide the committee with a provisional work plan for the 2019/20 financial year.

2. Background

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recently published updated practical guidance on the function and operation of audit committees in public bodies. This standard setter guidance states:

'The purpose of an audit committee is to provide to those charged with governance independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes.'

The guidance adds that the principal areas where the audit committee can add value are:

- promoting the principles of good governance and their application to decision making;
- raising awareness of the need for sound internal control and contributing to the development of an effective control environment;
- supporting arrangements for the governance of risk and for effective arrangements to manage risks;
- advising on the adequacy of the assurance framework and considering whether assurance is deployed efficiently and effectively;
- reinforcing the objectivity, importance and independence of internal audit and external audit and therefore the effectiveness of the audit functions;
- aiding the achievement of the authority's goals and objectives through helping ensure appropriate governance, risk, control and assurance arrangements;

- supporting the development of robust arrangements for ensuring value for money helping the authority to implement the values of ethical governance, including effective arrangements for countering risks of fraud and corruption;
- promoting measures to improve transparency and accountability and effective public reporting to the authority's stakeholders and the local community.

3. Outline of proposals

Work plan for 2019/20

The CIPFA guidance suggests that an audit committee should plan outputs in accordance with the principle added value areas of work.

To assist members a provisional Audit and Standards work plan for 2019/20, is provided to the committee (see Appendix 1).

Note: the provisional work plan can be supplemented with additional reports from assurance providers in accordance with the Audit and Standards Committee Terms of Reference (see Appendix 2).

In order to inform and develop work planning, the guidance also provides CIPFA's position statement and a self-assessment tool for members (see Appendix 3).

4. Committee action

The committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the work plan for 2019/20.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In accordance with the Audit and Standards Committee Terms of Reference.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require an Annual Governance Statement to be included in the Annual Accounts.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None.</i>
Social Inclusion consequences	<i>None.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None.</i>

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