

External Audit Plan 2017/18

16th April 2018

1 Purpose of report

Scott-Moncrieff is the Board's appointed external auditor for the five-year term from 2016/17 to 2020/21, inclusive. The External Audit Plan for 2017/18 outlines the proposed main areas of scrutiny and timescales for 2017/18 audit.

2 Main Report

- 2.1 In October 2016, Scott-Moncrieff was appointed as external auditor to the Board for a five-year term covering the period from 2016/17 to 2020/21 inclusive. Following consideration of the 2016/17 Annual Audit Report by the Board on 18th September 2017, 2017/18 is the second year of the five-year appointment. The proposed plan for the forthcoming audit is included in Appendix 1 – External Audit Plan 2017/18.
- 2.2 A timetable of key audit outputs is included in Section 6 of the Plan (page 17).
- 2.3 Staff from Scott-Moncrieff will attend the Board meeting to provide an overview of the Plan's contents and respond to any queries members may have.
- 2.4 The Plan comprises sections setting out the respective responsibilities of Scott-Moncrieff as independent auditor and the Board, the proposed audit strategy and more technical commentary on the detailed financial statement audit work to be undertaken, before presenting key areas for consideration as part of the "wider scope audit".
- 2.5 The special accountabilities that attach to the conduct of public business, and the use of public money, mean that public sector audits must be planned and undertaken from a wider perspective than in the private sector. This means providing assurance, not only on the financial statements, but providing audit judgements and conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance and performance management arrangements and financial sustainability. The Code of Audit Practice sets out four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope audit work into identifiable audit areas. These are summarised in the Plan at Exhibit 1 (page 4).
- 2.6. Where the application of the full wider scope is judged not to be appropriate then the annual audit work on the wider scope is restricted to:
 - Audit work to allow conclusions to be made on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement; and
 - Consideration of the financial sustainability of the organisation and the services that it delivers over the medium and longer term.

- 2.7 The Auditor's assessment considers the size, nature and risks of the organisation. Taking these factors into consideration, it is concluded that application of the restricted wider scope is appropriate to the Board.
- 2.8 Further details of the detailed approach to be adopted to assess the Board's financial statements is included in pages 5 to 6, with further detail on the specific areas of focus for the wider scope audit contained on page15. For 2017/18, in addition to the core audit of the financial statements, wider scope audit work will consider financial sustainability.

3 Financial Impact

- 3.1 The proposed audit fee is consistent with the level of provision contained within the Board's approved budget.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Board note the contents of the External Audit Plan for 2017/18.

**Hugh Dunn,
Treasurer.**

Appendices:	External Audit Plan 2017/18
Contact/Tel:	Mr. I Shaw: 0131 469 3117
Background Papers:	None



Scott-Moncrieff
business advisers and accountants

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

External Audit Plan
2017/18

April 2018

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1

Introduction

Introduction

1. This document summarises the work plan for our 2017/18 external audit of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board (“the Board”).
2. The core elements of our work include:
 - an audit of the 2017/18 financial statements and related matters;
 - a review, where applicable, of arrangements for governance and transparency, financial management, financial sustainability and value for money; and
 - any other work requested by Audit Scotland.

Audit appointment

3. The Accounts Commission is an independent body appointed by Scottish Ministers responsible for securing the audit of local authorities and other local government bodies. The Commission’s work is governed mainly by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.
4. Audit Scotland is an independent statutory body that provides the Accounts Commission with the services required to carry out their statutory functions, including monitoring the performance of auditors through a quality control process.
5. The Accounts Commission has appointed Scott-Moncrieff as external auditor of the Board for the five year period 2016/17 to 2020/21. This document comprises the audit plan for 2017/18 and summarises:
 - the responsibilities of Scott-Moncrieff as the external auditor;
 - our audit strategy;
 - our planned audit work and how we will approach it;
 - our proposed audit outputs and timetable; and
 - background to Scott-Moncrieff and the audit team.

Adding value through the audit

6. All of our clients quite rightly demand of us a positive contribution to meeting their ever-changing business needs. Our aim is to add value to the Board through our external audit work by being constructive and forward looking, by identifying areas of improvement and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In this way we aim to help the Board promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.
7. Any comments you may have on the service we provide, the quality of our work and our reports would be greatly appreciated at any time. Comments can be reported directly to the audit team or through our online survey: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S2SPZBX
8. While this plan is addressed to the Board, it will be published on Audit Scotland’s website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.

2

Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Board

Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Board

Auditor responsibilities

Code of Audit Practice

9. The Code of Audit Practice (the Code) outlines the responsibilities of external auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission and it is a condition of our appointment that we follow it.

Our responsibilities

10. Auditor responsibilities are derived from statute, the Code, International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), professional requirements and best practice and cover their responsibilities when auditing financial statements and when discharging their wider scope responsibilities (paragraph 12). These are to:

- undertake statutory duties, and comply with professional engagement and ethical standards
- provide an opinion on audited bodies' financial statements
- review and report on, as appropriate, other information such as annual governance statements, management commentaries and remuneration reports
- notify the Controller of Audit when circumstances indicate that a statutory report may be required
- demonstrate compliance with the wider public audit scope by reviewing and providing judgements and conclusions on the audited bodies':
 - effectiveness of performance management arrangements in driving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and assets
 - suitability and effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements
 - financial position and arrangements for securing financial sustainability

11. Weaknesses or risks identified by auditors are only those which have come to their attention

during their normal audit work in accordance with the Code, and may not be all that exist. Communication by auditors of matters arising from the audit of the financial statements or of risks or weaknesses does not absolve management from its responsibility to address the issues raised and to maintain an adequate system of control.

Wider scope audit work

12. The special accountabilities that attach to the conduct of public business, and the use of public money, mean that public sector audits must be planned and undertaken from a wider perspective than in the private sector. This means providing assurance, not only on the financial statements, but providing audit judgements and conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance and performance management arrangements and financial sustainability.
13. The Code sets out four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope audit work into identifiable audit areas. These are summarised in Exhibit 1.
14. Where the application of the full wider scope is judged by us not to be appropriate then our annual audit work on the wider scope is restricted to:
- Audit work to allow conclusions to be made on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement; and
 - Consideration of the financial sustainability of the organisation and the services that it delivers over the medium and longer term.
15. Our assessment takes into account the size, nature and risks of the organisation.
16. Taking these factors into consideration, we have concluded that application of the restricted wider scope is appropriate to Lothian Valuation Joint Board.

Board responsibilities

17. The Board has 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. The Board's responsibilities are summarised in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 1: Audit dimensions of wider scope public audit

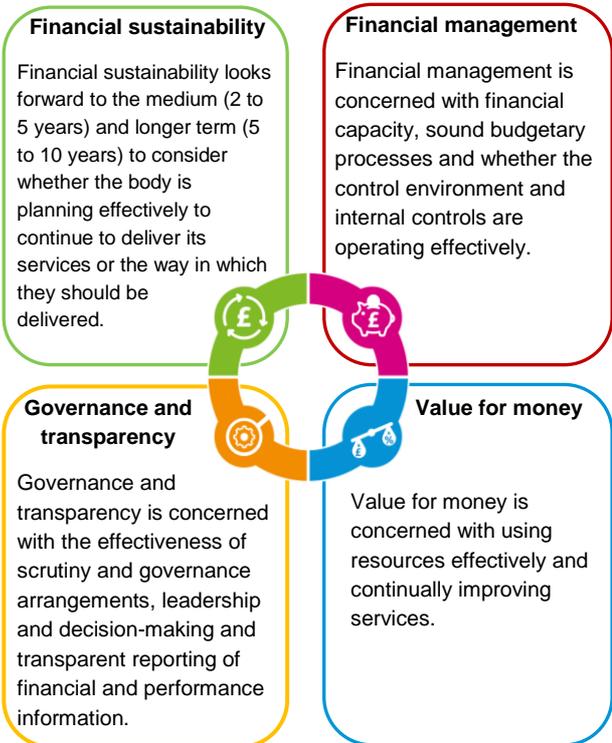


Exhibit 2 – Board’s responsibilities

Area	Board responsibilities
<p>Financial statements: Annual accounts containing financial statements and other related reports should be prepared.</p>	<p>The Board has responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of their financial position and their expenditure and income, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and relevant legislation; • maintaining accounting records and working papers that have been prepared to an acceptable professional standard and that support their financial statements and related reports disclosures; • maintaining proper accounting records; and • preparing and publishing, along with their financial statements, an annual governance statement, management commentary (or equivalent) and a remuneration report that are consistent with the disclosures made in the financial statements.
<p>Financial sustainability: Financial sustainability looks forward to the medium and longer term to consider whether the organisation is planning effectively to continue to fulfill its functions in an affordable and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>The Board is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure the financial position is soundly based having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such financial monitoring and reporting arrangements as may be specified; • Compliance with any statutory financial requirements and achievement of financial targets; • Balances and reserves, including strategies about levels and their future use; • How the organisation plans to deal with uncertainty in the medium and long term; and • The impact of planned future policies and foreseeable developments on the financial position.
<p>Financial management: Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively.</p>	<p>It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that financial affairs are conducted in a proper manner. Management are responsible, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to communicate relevant information to users about the entity and its financial performance.</p> <p>The Board is responsible for developing and implementing effective systems of internal control as well as financial, operational and compliance controls. These systems should support the achievement of their objectives and safeguard and secure value for money from the public funds at its disposal.</p> <p>It is the Board’s responsibility to establish arrangements to prevent and detect fraud, error and irregularities, bribery and corruption and also to ensure that its affairs are managed in accordance with proper standards of conduct by putting proper arrangements in place.</p>

Exhibit 2 – Board’s responsibilities

Area	Board responsibilities
<p>Governance and transparency: 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.</p>	<p>The Board is responsible for establishing arrangements to ensure the proper conduct of their affairs including the legality of activities and transactions, and for monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.</p> <p>The Board is also responsible for establishing effective and appropriate internal audit and risk management functions.</p>
<p>Value for money: Value for money is concerned with the appropriate use of resources and ensuring continual improvement of services delivered.</p>	<p>The Board has a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure best value. They are responsible for ensuring that these matters are given due priority and resources, and that proper procedures are established and operate satisfactorily.</p>

3

Audit strategy

Audit strategy

Risk-based audit approach

18. We follow a risk-based approach to audit planning that reflects our overall assessment of the relevant risks that apply to the Board.

This ensures that our audit focuses on the areas of highest risk. Our audit planning is based on:



19. Planning is a continuous process and our audit plans are therefore updated during the course of our audit to take account of developments as they arise.

Scotland throughout the audit. This helps, for example, to identify common priorities and risks, treat consistently any issues arising that impact on a number of audited bodies, and further develop an efficient and effective approach to public audit. We will share information about identified risks, good practices and barriers to improvement so that lessons to be learnt and knowledge of what works can be disseminated to all relevant bodies.

Communications with those charged with governance

20. Auditing standards require us to make certain communications throughout the audit to those charged with governance. These communications will be through the Board.

Professional standards and guidance

21. We perform our audit of the annual accounts in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), the International Standard on Quality Control 1 (UK), Ethical Standards, and applicable Practice Notes and other guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

24. Audit Scotland undertakes national performance audits on issues affecting the public sector. We will review the Board's arrangements for taking action on any issues reported in the national performance reports which may have a local impact. We plan to assess the extent to which the Board uses the national performance reports as a means to help improve performance at a local level.

Partnership working

22. We coordinate our work with Audit Scotland, internal audit and other external auditors, recognising the increasing integration of service delivery and partnership working within the public sector.

25. During the year we may also be required to provide information to Audit Scotland to support the national performance reports.

Audit Scotland

23. Although we are independent of Audit Scotland and are responsible for forming our own views and opinions, we do work closely with Audit

Internal audit

26. We are committed to avoiding duplication of audit effort and ensuring an efficient use of the Board's total audit resource. The Board's internal audit function is provided by the City of Edinburgh Council. We will consider the findings of the work of internal audit within our

audit process and look to minimise duplication of effort, to ensure the total audit resource available to the Board is used efficiently and effectively.

Service Organisation

- 27.** The Board utilises the City of Edinburgh Council to provide financial ledger services. We will consider the risks arising as a result of the use of a service organisation and tailor our audit approach accordingly.

4

Annual accounts

Annual accounts

Introduction

28. Audited bodies' annual accounts are an essential part of accounting for their stewardship of the resources made available to them and their financial performance in the use of those resources. This section sets out our approach to the audit of the Board's annual accounts.

Approach to the audit of the annual accounts

29. Our opinion on the annual accounts will be based on:

Risk-based audit planning

30. We focus our work on the areas of highest risk. As part of our planning process we prepare a risk assessment highlighting the audit risk relating to each of the key systems on which the annual accounts will be based.

An audit of key systems and internal controls

31. We evaluate the key accounting systems and internal controls and determine whether they are adequate to prevent material misstatements in the annual accounts.

32. The systems we review and the nature of the work we perform will be based on the initial risk assessment. We will examine and test compliance with best practice and the Board's own policies and procedures.

33. We will take cognisance of any relevant internal audit reviews of systems and controls.

34. We will update the risk assessment following our evaluation of systems and controls and this will ensure that we continue to focus attention on the areas of highest risk.

A final audit of the annual accounts

35. During our final audit we will test and review the material amounts and disclosures in the annual accounts. The extent of testing will be based on our risk assessment.

36. Our final audit will seek to provide reasonable assurance that the annual accounts are free from material misstatement and comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 (the CIPFA Code).

Independent auditor's report

37. Our opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and the income and expenditure will be set out in our independent auditor's report which will be included in the annual accounts.

Materiality

38. Materiality is an expression of the relative significance of a matter in the context of the annual accounts as a whole. A matter is material if its omission or misstatement would reasonably influence the decisions of an addressee of the auditor's report. The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement over both the amount and the nature of the misstatement. We will review our assessment of materiality throughout our audit.

39. Our initial assessment of materiality for the annual accounts is £134,000, approximately 2% of the Board's 2016/17 gross expenditure. We consider gross expenditure to be the principal consideration for the users of the accounts when assessing the performance of the Board. We will review and update our assessment of materiality following receipt of the unaudited annual accounts.

40. We set a performance (testing) materiality for each area of work which is based on a risk assessment for the area. We perform audit procedures on all transactions, or groups of transactions, and balances that exceed our performance materiality. This means that we perform a greater level of testing on the areas deemed to be of significant risk of material misstatement.

Area risk assessment	Weighting	Performance materiality
High	45%	£60,000
Medium	55%	£74,000
Low	70%	£94,000

41. We will report any misstatements identified through our audit that fall into one of the following categories:
- All material corrected misstatements;
 - Uncorrected misstatements with a value in excess of 5% of the overall materiality figure (i.e. over £6,000); and
 - Other misstatements below the 5% threshold that we believe warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.

misstatement in the annual accounts. We have set out our initial assessment below, including how the scope of our audit responds to those risks. We will provide an update to the Board if our assessment changes significantly during the audit.

Key audit risks in the annual accounts

42. Auditing standards require that we inform the Board of our assessment of the risk of material

Exhibit 3: Key audit risks in the annual accounts

1. Management override

In any organisation, there exists a risk that management have the ability to process transactions or make adjustments to the financial records outside the normal financial control processes. Such issues could lead to a material misstatement in the annual accounts. This is treated as a presumed risk area in accordance with ISA (UK) 240 - *The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements*.

43. In response to this risk we will review the Board's accounting records and obtain evidence to ensure that any significant transactions outside the normal course of business are valid and accounted for correctly. We will review the key accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management.

2. Revenue recognition

Under ISA (UK) 240 - *The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements* there is a presumed risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition. The presumption is that the Board could adopt accounting policies or recognise revenue transactions in such a way as to lead to a material misstatement in the reported financial position.

44. At this stage of our audit cycle, we do not believe the risk of fraud in revenue recognition is material to the financial statements and have therefore rebutted this risk. We will however continue to review this position throughout the audit.

Exhibit 3: Key audit risks in the annual accounts

3. Risk of fraud in the recognition of expenditure

In 2016, the Public Audit Forum issued Practice Note 10 “The Audit of Public Sector Financial Statements” which applies to the audit of public sector financial statements for periods commencing after June 2016. This Practice Note recognises that most public sector bodies are net spending bodies and notes that there is an increased risk of material misstatement due to improper recognition of expenditure.

- 
45. In response to this risk we will evaluate the significant expenditure streams (excluding payroll which is not deemed to be a significant risk area) and review the controls in place over accounting for expenditure. We will consider the Board’s key areas of expenditure and obtain evidence that the expenditure is recorded in line with appropriate accounting policies and that the policies have been applied consistently across the year.

4. Transformation and Cultural Change Programme – Severance costs

At its meeting of 6 February 2017, the Board was advised of the intention to undertake an organisational review exercise: the Transformation and Cultural Change Programme (TCCP). This programme has included a redesign of the organisational structure and as a result, a number of staff will be leaving the organisation through voluntary early release.

There is a risk that costs associated with the programme are not correctly recorded and accounted for within the financial statements.

- 
46. We will review the process undertaken by the Board to ensure the voluntary early release arrangements have been applied appropriately and in line with relevant guidance. Further, we will consider whether the costs associated with the programme have been correctly recognised in line with the CIPFA Code.

5

Wider scope audit

Wider scope audit

Introduction

47. As described in section 2, the Code frames a significant part of our wider scope responsibilities in terms of four audit dimensions. Following consideration of the size, nature and risks of the Board, the application of the full wider scope audit is judged by us not to be appropriate. Our annual audit work on the wider scope will therefore be restricted to:
- Audit work to allow conclusions to be made on the appropriateness of the disclosures in the governance statement; and
 - Consideration of the financial sustainability of the organisation and the services that it delivers over the medium and longer term.
48. Our planned audit work against these two dimensions is risk based and proportionate.
49. Our assessment builds upon our understanding of the Board's priorities and risks which we developed in 2016/17, discussions with management and review of minutes and key strategy documents. In 2017/18 we have also considered the following risk areas as they relate to the Board:
- EU withdrawal
 - New financial powers
 - Ending of public sector pay cap
 - Response to cyber security risks
 - Openness and transparency.
50. At this stage of our audit planning, we have identified one significant risk to the wider scope of our audit in relation to financial sustainability (Exhibit 4). Audit planning is a continuous process and our application of the small body provision will be subject to ongoing review to ensure it remains appropriate. Should we identify any particular issue or risk during our audit that requires additional work, or the full wider scope to be applied, we will update our audit plan.

Exhibit 4 – Significant risk: financial sustainability

1. Financial sustainability

The Board has arrangements in place for short term (1 year) financial planning. Budgets are aligned to the Corporate and Service plan. The Board has recognised that there is a high degree of uncertainty over future funding allocations and therefore has not prepared long term financial plans. However, the Board has recognised the importance of establishing a sustainable financial position.

A major review titled the 'Transformation and Cultural Change Programme' has been ongoing throughout 2017/18. The review aims to modernise the organisation through consideration of three principle areas: process improvement, cultural change and customer focus. One of the key outcomes for the review is '*placing the organisation on a financially sustainable platform for the future delivery of services.*'

An update on progress made to date was reported to the Board in February 2018. This included the reporting of a revised organisational structure which will be implemented from 1 April 2018.



51. During our audit we will consider whether the Board has adequate arrangements in place for managing its financial position and its use of resources. Our conclusion will be based on a review of the Board's financial performance, underlying financial position, financial plans and financial reporting.

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Audit outputs, timetable and fees

Audit outputs, timetable and fees

Audit output	Format	Description	Target month
External audit plan	Report	This report sets out the scope of our audit for 2017/18.	April 2018
Independent Auditor's Report	Report	This report will contain our opinion on the truth and fairness of the annual accounts.	September 2018
Annual Report to the Board and the Controller of Audit	Report	At the conclusion of each year's audit we will issue an annual report setting out the nature and extent of our audit work for the year and summarising our opinions, conclusions and the significant issues arising from the work. This report will pull together all of our work under the Code of Audit Practice.	September 2018

Audit outputs

- 38. Prior to submitting our outputs, we will discuss all issues with management to confirm factual accuracy and agree a draft action plan where appropriate.
- 39. The action plans within the reports will include prioritised recommendations, responsible officers and implementation dates. We will review progress against the action plans on a regular basis.

Audit fee

- 40. Audit Scotland sets an expected fee for each audit carried out under appointment that assumes the body has well-functioning controls, an effective internal audit service, and an average risk profile. The expected fee is reviewed by Audit Scotland each year and adjusted if necessary based on auditors' experience, new requirements, or significant changes to the audited body.
- 41. As auditors we negotiate a fee with the audited body during the planning process. The fee may be varied above the expected fee level to reflect the circumstances and local risks within the body.

- 42. For 2017/18 we propose setting the audit fee at the expected fee level. The total proposed fee for the Board for 2017/18 is as follows:

2017/18	
Auditor remuneration	£6,140
Pooled costs	£550
Performance audit and Best Value	-
Audit support costs	£390
Total expected fee	£7,080¹

- 43. We will take account of the risk exposure of the Board and the management assurances in place. We assume receipt of the draft accounts and working papers at the outset of our on-site final audit visit. If the draft accounts and papers are late, or agreed management assurances are unavailable, we reserve the right to charge an additional fee for additional audit work. An additional fee will be required in relation to any

¹ The audit fee in 2016/17 was £6,970

other significant exercises not within our planned audit activity.

Audit timetable

44. The dates for our final audit visit have been discussed with the interim Assessor and the City of Edinburgh Council Finance Team. A summary timetable, including audit outputs, is set out adjacently:



7

Appendices

Appendix 1: Your audit team

Scott-Moncrieff is one of the largest independent accountancy firms in Scotland. We have 17 partners and over 200 staff operating from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. We are also part of the global Moore Stephens network.

We have been external auditors within the public sector for at least fifty years. We provide a comprehensive range of services to clients across the public sector, including NHS bodies, local authorities, central government bodies and FE colleges. We also provide services to charities, schools, as well as private and public limited companies.

Edinburgh	Glasgow	Inverness
Exchange Place 3 Semple Street Edinburgh EH3 8BL	25 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 6NL	10 Ardross Street Inverness IV3 5NS
(0131) 473 3500	(0141) 567 4500	(01463) 701 940

Your audit team



Nick Bennett
Partner
Nick.bennett@scott-moncrieff.com

Nick has over 25 years' experience of public sector auditing and has been heavily involved in developing public sector accounting standards. Nick's experience and expertise is acknowledged both by clients and by other professionals involved right across the public sector.

Nick will be your engagement lead.



Karen Jones
Director
Karen.jones@scott-moncrieff.com

Karen is one of our directors responsible for the audit of our Audit Scotland external audit appointments. Karen has over 15 years' experience in auditing the public sector. She has extensive experience in auditing in auditing local authorities and other local government bodies.

Karen will be your audit manager.



Rachel Wynne
Audit Senior
Rachel.wynne@scott-moncrieff.com

Rachel joined the firm in 2014 as a public sector audit trainee and has since achieved her CA qualification. She has experience delivering external audit services to a range of public sector bodies, including local government.

Rachel will be responsible for the delivery of the onsite work.

Confirmation of independence

International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260
“Communication with those charged with governance”
requires us to communicate on a timely basis all facts
and matters that may have a bearing on our
independence.

We confirm that we will comply with FRC’s Revised
Ethical Standard (June 2016). In our professional
judgement, the audit process is independent and our
objectivity has not been compromised in any way. In
particular there are and have been no relationships
between Scott-Moncrieff and the Board, its Board
members and senior management that may
reasonably be thought to bear on our objectivity and
independence.

Appendix 2: Statement of understanding

Introduction

The purpose of this statement of understanding is to clarify the terms of our appointment and the key responsibilities of the Board and Scott-Moncrieff.

Annual accounts

We will require the annual accounts and supporting working papers for audit by the agreed date specified in the audit timetable. It is assumed that the relevant staff will have adequate time available to deal with audit queries and will be available up to the expected time of completion of the audit.

Scope of audit

As auditors we will take reasonable steps to plan and carry out the audit so as to meet the objectives and comply with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice. Audit work will be planned and performed on the basis of our assessment of audit risks, so as to obtain such information and explanations as are considered necessary to provide sufficient evidence to meet the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice.

As auditors we do not act as a substitute for the Board's responsibility to establish proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

As part of our normal audit procedures, we will ask you to provide written confirmation of certain oral representations which we have received from the Board during the course of the audit on matters having a material effect on the annual accounts. This will take place by means of a letter of representation, which will require to be signed by the Treasurer.

Internal audit

It is the responsibility of the Board to establish adequate internal audit arrangements. The audit fee is agreed on the basis that an effective internal audit function exists.

We will liaise with internal audit to ensure an efficient audit process.

Fraud and irregularity

In order to discharge our responsibilities regarding fraud and irregularity we require any fraud or

irregularity issues to be reported to us as they arise. We also require a historic record of instances of fraud or irregularity to be maintained and a summary to be made available to us after each year end.

Ethics

We are bound by the ethical guidelines of our professional body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

Fees

We base our agreed fee upon the assumption that all of the required information for the audit is available within the agreed timetable. If the information is not available within the timetable we reserve the right to charge a fee for the additional time spent by our staff. The fee will depend upon the level of skill and responsibility of the staff involved.

Service

If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving please let us know by contacting Nick Bennett. If you are not satisfied, you should contact our Ethics Partner, Bernadette Higgins. In the event of your not being satisfied by our response, you may also wish to bring the matter to the attention of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

We undertake to look at any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you.

Reports

During the course of the audit we will produce reports detailing the results and conclusions from our work.

Any recommendations arising from our audit work will be included in an action plan. Management are responsible for providing responses, including target dates for implementation and details of the responsible officer.

Agreement of terms

We shall be grateful if the Board would consider and note this statement of understanding. If the contents are not in accordance with your understanding of our terms of appointment, please let us know.



Scott-Moncrieff
business advisers and accountants

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