

Angus Integration Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2021/22



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Angus Integration Joint Board

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Introduction

Summary of planned audit work

1. This document summarises the work plan for our 2021/22 external audit of Angus Integration Joint Board (Angus IJB). The main elements of our work include:

- evaluation of the key controls within the main accounting systems
- an audit of the annual accounts of Angus IJB and the issue of an independent auditor's report setting out our audit opinions on the financial statements and other statutory information including the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement and Remuneration Report
- consideration of arrangements in relation to the audit dimensions: financial management, financial sustainability, governance and transparency and value for money, that frame the wider scope of public sector audit
- consideration of Best Value arrangements.

Impact of Covid-19

2. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on public services and public finances, and the effects will be felt well into the future. The Auditor General for Scotland, the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland continue to assess the risks to public services and finances from Covid-19 across the full range of our audit work, including annual audits and the programme of performance audits. The well-being of audit teams and the delivery of high-quality audits remain paramount. Changes in our approach may be necessary and where this impacts on annual audits, revisions to this Annual Audit Plan may be required.

Adding value

3. We aim to add value by being constructive and forward looking, by identifying areas for improvement and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In so doing, we will help Angus IJB promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources. Additionally, we attend meetings of the Audit Committee and actively participate in discussions.

Respective responsibilities of the auditor and Angus IJB

4. The [Code of Audit Practice \(2016\)](#) sets out in detail the respective responsibilities of the auditor and Angus IJB. Key responsibilities are summarised below.

Auditor responsibilities

5. Our responsibilities as independent auditors are established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the [Code of Audit Practice](#) (including [supplementary guidance](#)) and guided by the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard.

6. 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 Angus IJB to manage its performance and use of resources. In doing this, we aim to support improvement and accountability.

Angus IJB responsibilities

7. Angus IJB is responsible for maintaining accounting records and preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view.

8. Also, Angus IJB 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 deliver their objectives.

Managing the transition to 2022/23 audits

9. Audit appointments are usually for five years but were extended to six years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 2021/22 is the final year of the current appointment and we will work closely with our successors to ensure a well-managed transition.

Financial statements audit planning

Materiality

10. Materiality is an expression of the relative significance of a matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. We are required to plan our audit to determine with reasonable confidence whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement over both the amount and the nature of the misstatement.

Materiality levels for the 2021/22 audit

11. We assess materiality at different levels and the materiality values for Angus IJB are set out in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1 2021/22 Materiality levels for Angus IJB

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 per cent of net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022 based on the latest audited financial statements for 2020/21.	£1.8 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 assessed performance materiality at 75 per cent of planning materiality.	£1.350 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.	£90,000

Source: Audit Scotland

Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

12. Our risk assessment draws on our cumulative knowledge of Angus IJB, its major transaction streams, key systems of internal control and risk management processes. Also, it is informed by our discussions with management, meetings with internal audit, attendance at committees and a review of supporting information.

13. Based on our risk assessment process, we identified the following significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. These are risks which have the greatest impact on our planned audit procedures. [Exhibit 2](#) summarises the nature of the risk, the sources of assurance from management arrangements and the further audit procedures we plan to perform to gain assurance over the risk.

Exhibit 2

2021/22 Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

Significant risk of material misstatement	Sources of assurance	Planned audit response
<p>1. Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by the management override of controls</p> <p>As stated in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.</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"> Evaluate the assurances obtained from the auditors of Angus Council and NHS Tayside in line with the 2021/22 Integration Joint Boards Protocol for Auditor Assurances. Agreement of balances and transactions to financial reports / ledger of the two partners. Detailed testing of any significant year end adjustments. Review of Angus IJB financial monitoring reports during the year.

Source: Audit Scotland

14. As set out in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240: *The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statement*, there is a presumed risk of fraud over the recognition of revenue. There is a risk that revenue may be misstated resulting in a material misstatement in the financial statements. We have rebutted this risk for Angus IJB as it is wholly funded by way of budget allocations from its partner bodies (Angus Council and NHS Tayside) and there is limited scope for manipulation.

15. In line with Practice Note 10: *Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom*, as most public-sector bodies are net spending bodies, the risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to expenditure recognition may in some cases be greater than the risk relating to revenue recognition. We have rebutted this risk for Angus IJB as it does not directly incur expenditure or employ staff (other than appointing the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer). All expenditure is incurred and processed through the financial systems of the partner bodies and there is limited scope for Angus IJB to manipulate this.

16. We have not, therefore, incorporated specific work into our audit plan in these areas over and above our standard audit procedures.

Other areas of audit focus

17. As part of our assessment of audit risks, we have identified other areas where we consider there are also risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. The areas of specific focus are Large Hospital Set Aside (LHSA) and Mental Health Services due to the significant management estimation and judgement within the calculation. Our audit work will include evaluating the robustness of the methodologies for determining each of these costs.

18. Based on our assessment of the likelihood and magnitude of these risks, we do not consider them to represent significant risks. We will keep these areas under review as our audit progresses and if our assessment of risk changes we will communicate this to management and those charged with governance and revise our planned audit approach accordingly.

Audit risk assessment process

19. Audit risk assessment is an iterative and dynamic process. Our assessment of risks set out in this plan may change as more information and evidence becomes available during the progress of the audit. Where such changes occur, we will advise management and where relevant, report them to those charged with governance.

Audit dimensions and Best Value

Audit dimensions

20. The [Code of Audit Practice](#) sets out the four dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit and requires auditors to consider the adequacy of the arrangements in place. The four dimensions that frame our audit work are shown in [Exhibit 3](#).

Exhibit 3 Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

21. In summary, the four dimensions cover the following:

- **Financial management** – financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively.
- **Financial sustainability** – 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 medium (two to five years) and longer term (longer than five years).

- **Governance and transparency** – governance and transparency is concerned with the effectiveness of scrutiny and governance arrangements, leadership, decision-making and transparent reporting of financial and performance information.
- **Value for money** – value for money refers to using resources effectively and continually improving services.

Audit dimension risks

22. We have identified audit risks in the areas set out in [Exhibit 4](#). This exhibit sets out the risks, sources of assurance from management arrangements and the further audit procedures we plan to perform to gain assurances over the risks.

Exhibit 4

2021/22 Audit dimension risks

Description of risk	Sources of assurance	Planned audit response
<p>1. Financial sustainability</p> <p>NHS Tayside and Angus Council continue to face significant financial pressures from funding reductions and increasing demand. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities to develop savings plans.</p> <p>There is a risk that Angus IJB, in partnership with NHS Tayside and Angus Council, may not be able to identify sustainable savings measures or meet cost pressures as they arise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Financial Plan reports provided to IJB (February and April 2022). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress made on meeting savings targets and dealing with cost pressures. • Assess the reasonableness of the assumptions in the strategic financial plan updates.

Source: Audit Scotland

Best Value

23. Integration Joint Boards have a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best Value. We will review the arrangements put in place by Angus Integration Joint Board to achieve best value and report findings through out annual audit report.

Reporting arrangements, timetable, and audit fee

Reporting arrangements

- 24.** Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit. All audit outputs will be published on our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk.
- 25.** 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 officers to confirm factual accuracy.
- 26.** We will provide an independent auditor's report to Angus IJB and the Accounts Commission setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will provide Angus IJB and the Accounts Commission with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen during the audit.
- 27.** [Exhibit 5](#) outlines the target dates for our audit outputs. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on the conduct and timeliness of the audit. We recognise that it is in the best interests of public accountability to get the reporting of audited accounts back to pre-pandemic timelines. To this end we acknowledge that there is an audit committee currently scheduled for 24 August 2022 and we will work to achieve this date if possible. This will be challenging due to the ongoing pressures and uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Exhibit 5 2021/22 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Audit Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	31/03/2022	20/04/2022
Independent Auditor's Report	31/10/2022	TBC
Annual Audit Report	31/10/2022	TBC

Source: Audit Scotland

28. We will continue to work in close partnership with management with clarity over timescales and the requirement for high quality unaudited accounts and supporting working papers. Progress will be discussed with management and finance officers over the course of the audit.

Audit fee

29. The agreed audit fee for the 2021/22 audit of Angus IJB is £27,960 (2020/21: £27,330). In determining the audit fee, we have taken account of the risk exposure of Angus IJB, the planned management assurances in place and the level of reliance we plan to take from the work of internal audit.

30. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited annual report and accounts, the absence of adequate supporting working papers 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.

Other matters

Internal audit

31. International standards on Auditing (UK) 610: *Considering the work of internal audit* requires us to:

- consider the activities of internal audit and their effect on external audit procedures;
- obtain an understanding of internal audit activities to inform our planning and develop an effective audit approach that avoids duplication of effort;
- perform a preliminary assessment of the internal audit function when there is scope for relying on internal audit work which is relevant to our financial statements' responsibilities; and
- evaluate and test the work of internal audit, where use is made of that work for our financial statements responsibilities to confirm its adequacy for our purposes.

32. From our initial review of the internal audit plans, we do not plan to place formal reliance on internal audit's work for our financial statements' responsibilities. We will consider the findings of all internal audit reports to inform our work on wider dimension responsibilities.

Independence and objectivity

33. Auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Scotland or Accounts Commission 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.

34. The engagement lead (i.e. appointed auditor) for Angus IJB is Carole Grant, 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 Angus IJB.

Quality control

35. International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 (ISQC1) requires a system of quality control to be 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

Angus Integration Joint Board

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