

# East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

Annual Audit Plan 2021/22



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

1 April 2022

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# Introduction

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## Summary of planned audit work

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

- evaluation of the key controls within the main accounting systems
- an audit of, and provision of an Independent Auditor's Report
- an audit opinion on regularity and other statutory information published within the annual report and accounts including the Performance Report, the Governance Statement and the 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 coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on public services and public finances, and the effects will be felt well into the future.

3. 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

4. We aim to add value to East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board 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 will help East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources. Additionally, we attend meetings of the Performance and Audit Committee and actively participate in discussions.

## Respective responsibilities of the auditor and East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

5. The [Code of Audit Practice \(2016\)](#) sets out in detail the respective responsibilities of the auditor and East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board. Key responsibilities are summarised below.

### Auditor responsibilities

6. 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.

7. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements and other information within the annual report and 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.

### East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board responsibilities

8. East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board is responsible for maintaining accounting records and preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view.

9. Also, East Renfrewshire Integration Joint 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 deliver their objectives.

### Managing the transition to 2022/23 audits

10. Audit appointments are usually for five years but were extended to six years due to Covid-19. 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

**11.** 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

**12.** We assess materiality at different levels as described in [Exhibit 1](#). The materiality values for East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board are set out in [Exhibit 1](#).

## Exhibit 1

### 2021/22 Materiality levels for East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

Materiality	Amount
<b>Planning materiality</b> – This is the figure we use to assess the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. It has been set at 1.5% of gross expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022 based on the latest audited financial statements for 2020/21.	£3 million
<b>Performance materiality</b> – 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 60% of planning materiality.	£1.8 million
<b>Reporting threshold (i.e. clearly trivial)</b> – We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements more than the 'reporting threshold' amount.	£0.15 million

Source: Audit Scotland

## Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

**13.** Our risk assessment draws on our cumulative knowledge of East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board, 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.

**14.** 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><b>1. Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by the management override of controls</b></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>	<p>Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable in this instance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain written assurance from partner bodies' auditors over journal entries and testing the completeness, accuracy and allocation of income and expenditure.</li> <li>We will assess any changes to the methods and underlying assumptions used to prepare accounting estimates compared to the prior year.</li> </ul>

Source: Audit Scotland

**15.** 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 East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board as the only source of income for the Integration Joint Board is funding from the partner bodies (East Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde) and there is limited scope for manipulation.



**16.** 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 East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board as the Integration Joint Board does not directly incur expenditure or employ staff (other than appointing the Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer). All expenditure for the Integration Joint Board is incurred and processed by its partner bodies. Details of actual expenditure are provided from the partner bodies and there is limited scope for the Integration Joint Board to manipulate this.

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

### **Audit risk assessment process**

**18.** 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.

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# Audit dimensions and Best Value

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## Introduction

19. The [Code of Audit Practice](#) sets out the four dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit. The Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to consider the adequacy of the arrangements in place for the audit dimensions in audited bodies.

## Audit dimensions

20. The four dimensions that frame our audit work are shown in [Exhibit 4](#).

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### Exhibit 3

#### Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

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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 longer term. We define this as medium term (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, and 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.

## Best Value

**22.** Integration Joint Boards have a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value. We will review and report on these arrangements through our Annual Audit Report.

## Audit dimension risks

**23.** 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><b>1. Financial Sustainability</b></p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Plan presented to the Joint Board in March 2022 outlined financial challenges and uncertainties over the next five years to 2026/27 including the need to achieve savings through change and redesign.</p> <p>The 2022/23 financial plan outlined unfunded cost pressures of £3.147 million. The plan outlines that these costs will be met from identified savings of £0.272 million with the remaining balance of £2.875 million coming from the recovery and renewal programme and supported by budget phasing reserve.</p> <p>There is a risk that East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board will be unable to achieve a sustainable outturn position going forwards, particularly</p>	<p>The MTFP shows a modelled level of expected cost pressures. The budget settlement for each year may fund some of these pressures. Any remaining gap will equate to a new savings challenge.</p> <p>The IJB remains aware of the size and scale of the legacy savings required to balance the budget on a recurring basis and that achieving recurring savings of this magnitude will be very challenging.</p> <p>Given the increases in demand and complexity, combined with a post Covid-19 backlog in</p>	<p>We will review and assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial reports and papers such as budget monitoring reports, the 2021/22 budget, financial plans, savings plans and financial outlook papers</li> <li>• Assumptions and judgements in financial reports and papers for reasonableness</li> </ul>

Description of risk	Sources of assurance	Planned audit response
<p>given the uncertainty around covid-19 and increasing service demands.</p>	<p>medical treatment, it is not yet possible to understand what our new baseline is.</p> <p>Our Recovery and Renewal Programme will recommence, building on lessons from the pandemic response, focussing on service redesign and will include savings challenges across a number of workstreams.</p> <p>The recent investment in health and social care will go some way to supporting service redesign and we will apply our reserves strategy, in place pre-Covid19, to allow us time to smooth in savings.</p> <p>In the event we cannot achieve the required level of savings during 2022/23, allowing for the full year effect in 2023/24, we may need to consider the financial recovery process as defined in the Integration Scheme.</p>	

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Source: Audit Scotland

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# Reporting arrangements, timetable, and audit fee

## Reporting arrangements

**24.** Audit reporting is the visible output for the annual audit. All Annual Audit Plans and the outputs, as detailed in [Exhibit 7](#), and any other outputs on matters of public interest will be published on our website: [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://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 East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission setting out our opinions on the annual report and accounts. We will provide the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board 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.** Covid-19 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, 2021/22 is a transition year with the reporting deadline brought forward by one month relative to the two prior years. We are identifying ways to work more efficiently to expedite the 2021/22 audits whilst at the same time maintaining high standards of quality.

**28.** [Exhibit 7](#) outlines the target dates for our audit outputs. Due to pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic we have agreed an audit timetable consistent with the prior year. This means that we will not meet the Audit Planning Guidance deadline of 31 October 2022.

## Exhibit 5 2020/21 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Performance and Audit Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	31/03/2022	22/06/2022
Independent Auditor's Report	31/10/2022	23/11/22

Audit Output	Target date	Performance and Audit Committee Date
Annual Audit Report	31/10/2022	23/11/22

Source: Audit Scotland

## Audit fee

**29.** The agreed audit fee for the 2021/22 audit of East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board is £27,960 (2020/21: £27,330). In determining the audit fee, we have taken account of the risk exposure of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board, 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.

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# Other matters

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## 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.

## 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 East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board is John Cornett, 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 East Renfrewshire Council.

## 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.



# East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

## Annual Audit Plan 2021/22

Audit Scotland's published material is available for download on the website in a number of formats. For information on our accessibility principles, please visit:

[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/accessibility](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/accessibility)

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