

Orkney Island Council Pension Fund

Annual Audit Plan 2017/18



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for Orkney Island Council Pension Fund Sub Committee and Pensions Board

21 February 2018

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 and is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the [Code of Audit Practice](#), and any other relevant guidance. This plan identifies our audit work to provide an opinion on the financial statements and related matters and meet the wider scope requirements of public sector audit.

2. The wider scope of public audit contributes to conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance, performance management arrangements and financial sustainability.

Audit risks

3. Based on our discussions with staff, attendance at committee meetings and a review of supporting information we have identified the following main risk areas for Orkney Island Council Pension Fund. We have categorised these risks into financial risks and wider dimension risks. The key audit risks, which require specific audit testing, are detailed in [Exhibit 1](#). As the triennial review for 31 March 2017 is going to be included within the 2017/18 financial statements for the first time we will be carrying out work to verify the valuations provided by the actuary.

Exhibit 1

2017/18 Key audit risks

Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
Financial statement issues and risks		
<p>1 Risk of management override of controls</p> <p>ISA 240 requires that audit work is planned to consider the risk of fraud, which is presumed to be a significant risk in any audit. This includes consideration of the risk of management override of controls in order to change the position disclosed in the financial statements.</p>	<p>Owing to the nature of this risk, assurances from management are not applicable.</p>	<p>Detailed testing of journal entries.</p> <p>Review of accounting estimates.</p> <p>Evaluation of significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business.</p>
<p>2 Risk of fraud over income and expenditure</p> <p>ISA 240 presumes a risk of fraud over income; this is expanded to include the risk of fraud over expenditure in the public sector by the Code of Audit Practice and the Financial Reporting Council's</p>	<p>Effective budget monitoring and reporting by management.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of systems for income recognition and recording.</p> <p>Conduct a review of third party service providers, where relied upon by management, including review of service auditor reports.</p>

Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
<p>Practice Note 10 (revised).</p> <p>The Orkney Island Council Pension Fund receives a significant amount of investment income from third party sources. This presents a risk due to the extent and complexity of income.</p> <p>The Pension Fund also makes a high volume of payments, including high value payments, which can constitute a risk of misstatement of expenditure.</p>		<p>Analytical procedures on income and expenditure streams.</p> <p>Agree income to third party confirmation.</p> <p>Substantive testing of expenditure.</p>
<p>3 Changes to financial reporting</p> <p>Pension funds will be required to disclose information on investment management transaction costs, including the amount for each asset class, their nature, and how they arise for different types of investment.</p> <p>It is essential that the pension fund is in a position to capture these costs.</p>	<p>Relevant guidance and regulations will be reviewed to ensure the 2017/18 annual report and accounts meet the necessary requirements.</p>	<p>Communication of technical changes with officers.</p> <p>Review disclosures as part of our financial statements audit.</p>
Wider dimension risks		
<p>4 Governance Statement assurances</p> <p>Internal audit have planned limited reviews of key financial systems during 2017/18.</p> <p>There is a risk that the pension fund will have insufficient assurances for the governance statement for 2017/18.</p>	<p>Internal Audit plan to perform a financial systems health check of key financial systems as well as more in-depth review of the financial ledger to provide assurance for the 2017/18 annual governance statement.</p>	<p>Liaise with Internal Audit early in the year.</p> <p>Review the work of internal audit and assess the adequacy of assurances provided to support the governance statement.</p>
<p>5 Internal Control Procedures</p> <p>During 2017/18, the pension fund have migrated all records to the Altair ICT system which is used to record member entitlements and to perform some calculations.</p> <p>With the new system and more staff now working on pensions there is an opportunity to develop new internal controls procedures for the Altair system to reduce the risks of errors and provide the opportunity for independent checks by more staff.</p>	<p>An authorisation and approvals hierarchy will be developed during 2017/18 for the Altair system so that the segregation of duties can be followed and evidenced on working papers.</p> <p>The extent to which segregation can be practically implemented is however restricted due to the very small size of the pension team.</p>	<p>Review the funds authorisation and approvals hierarchy.</p>

Audit Risk	Source of assurance	Planned audit work
<p>6 Local Code Good Governance Arrangements</p> <p>The Fund should review its compliance of its local code with the Delivering Good Governance Framework.</p>	<p>We will carry out an exercise to review our compliance with the Local Code during 2017/18 and report on this in the 2017/18 financial statements.</p>	<p>Review the Funds compliance exercise.</p>

Reporting arrangements

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

5. 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.

6. We will provide an independent auditor's report to the administering authority and the Accounts Commission setting out our opinions on the annual accounts. We will provide the Orkney Pension Fund sub-committee and the Accounts Commission with an annual report on the audit containing observations and recommendations on significant matters which have arisen in the course of the audit.

Exhibit 2

2017/18 Audit outputs

Audit Output	Target date	Pension Fund Sub Committee Date
Annual Audit Plan	9 February 2018	21 February 2018
Annual Audit Report	7 September 2018	19 September 2018
Independent Auditor's Report	19 September 2018	19 September 2018

Audit fee

7. The proposed audit fee for the 2017/18 audit of Orkney Island Council Pension Fund is £19,970 (2016/17: £19,670). In determining the audit fee we have taken account of the risk exposure of Orkney Island Council Pension Fund, 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 financial statements, with a complete working papers package on 4 June 2018.

8. Where our audit cannot proceed as planned through, for example, late receipt of unaudited financial statements 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 outwith our planned audit activity.

Responsibilities

Orkney Pension Fund Sub-Committee

9. 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.

10. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or the Pension Fund Sub-committee, as those charged with governance, of their responsibilities.

Appointed auditor

11. Our responsibilities as independent auditor are established by the Public 1973 Act for local government, the Code of Audit Practice, and guided by the auditing profession's ethical guidance.

12. Auditors in the public sector give an independent opinion on the financial statements and other specified information accompanying the financial statements. 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

Financial statements

13. The statutory financial statements audit will be the foundation and source for the majority 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 Orkney Island Council Pension Fund 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 Orkney Island Council Pension Fund 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.

14. We will give an opinion on the financial statements as to whether:

- they give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the fund during the year ended 31 March 2018 and the amount and disposition as at that date of its assets and liabilities
- they have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK and
- 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.

Materiality

15. 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 opinion in the auditor's report.

16. We calculate materiality at different levels as described below. The calculated materiality values for Orkney Island Council Pension Fund are set out in [Exhibit 3](#).



Exhibit 3

Materiality values

Materiality level	Amount
<p>Planning materiality - Fund Account</p> <p>This is the calculated figure we use in assessing the overall impact of audit adjustments on the financial statements. It has been set at 10% of contributions receivable (based on the latest audited accounts, for the year ended 31 March 2017).</p>	£1.092 million
<p>Performance materiality - Fund Account</p> <p>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 50% of planning materiality.</p>	£0.546 million
<p>Reporting threshold</p> <p>We are required to report to those charged with governance on all unadjusted misstatements in excess of the 'reporting threshold' amount. This has been calculated at 2.5% of planning materiality (with a maximum level of £100,000).</p>	£0.030 million

17. We review and report on other information published with the financial statements including the management commentary and annual governance statement. Any issue identified will be reported to the Orkney Island Council Pension Sub Committee.

Timetable

18. To support the efficient use of resources it is critical that a financial statements timetable is agreed with us for the production of the unaudited accounts. An agreed timetable is included at [Exhibit 4](#) which takes account of submission requirements and planned Pension Committee meeting dates:

Exhibit 4

Financial statements timetable

 Key stage	 Date
Consideration of unaudited financial statements by those charged with governance	By 31 August 2018
Latest submission date of unaudited financial statements with complete working papers package	4 June 2018
Latest date for final clearance meeting with Pensions Manager and Head of Finance	25 August 2018
Agreement of audited unsigned financial statements; Issue of Annual Audit Report including ISA 260 report to those charged with governance	19 September 2018
Independent auditor's report signed	By 30 September

Internal audit

19. Auditing standards require internal and external auditors to work closely together to make best use of available audit resources. We seek to rely on the work of internal audit wherever possible and as part of our planning process we carry out an assessment of the internal audit function. Internal audit is provided by Orkney Islands Council Internal Audit section.

Adequacy of internal audit

20. We carried out an early assessment of the internal audit function and concluded that it has sound documentation standards and reporting procedures in place and complies with the main requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

Audit dimensions

21. Our audit is based on four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope of public sector audit requirements as shown in [Exhibit 5](#).

Exhibit 5

Audit dimensions



Source: Code of Audit Practice

Financial sustainability

22. 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 the body's 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

- whether the fund can demonstrate the affordability and effectiveness of funding and investment decisions it has made.

Financial management

23. Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether the fund has arrangements in place to ensure systems of internal control are operating effectively
- whether the fund can demonstrate the effectiveness of budgetary control system in communicating accurate and timely financial performance
- how the fund has assured itself that its financial capacity and skills are appropriate
- whether the fund has established appropriate and effective arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.

Governance and transparency

24. 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. We will review, conclude and report on:

- whether the fund can demonstrate that the governance arrangements in place are appropriate and operating effectively.
- whether there is effective scrutiny, challenge and transparency on the decision – making and finance and performance reports.
- the quality and timeliness of financial and performance reporting.

Value for money

25. We will review, conclude and report on whether the fund can provide evidence that it is demonstrating value for money in the use of its resources, has a focus on improvement and that there is a clear link to the outcomes delivered.

Independence and objectivity

26. 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 in place robust arrangements 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.

27. The engagement lead for Orkney Island Council Pension Fund is Gillian Woolman, Assistant 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 Orkney Island Council Pension Fund.

Quality control

28. 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.

29. 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 relevant 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, internal quality reviews and has recently secured new arrangements for external quality reviews.

30. 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.

Adding Value

31. Through our audit work we aim to add value to the Orkney Island Council Pension Fund. We will do this by ensuring our Annual Audit Report provides a summary of the audit work done in the year together with clear judgements and conclusions on how well the Orkney Island Council Pension Fund has discharged its responsibilities and how well it has demonstrated the effectiveness of its arrangements. Where it is appropriate we will recommend actions that support continuous improvement and summarise areas of good practice identified from our audit work.

Orkney Island Council Pension Fund

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