



Audit Progress Report and Technical Update

Manchester City Council

June 2019





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1. AUDIT PROGRESS

Purpose of this report

This report provides the Audit Committee with an update on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

Audit progress

Since the Committee last met in April we have:

- met with finance staff to clarify our requirements and expectations in respect of our 2018/19 final audit visit;
- kept up to date through our on-going review of agendas and minutes;
- continued our detailed audit work for our 2018/19 VFM conclusion.

Our detailed audit work will continue with our final audit visit which commences on 17 June 2019.

Our work is on track, and there are no significant matters arising from our work that we are required to report to you at this stage.

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

	Publication/update	Key points	Page
National Audit Office (NAO)			
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2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS – NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

1. Framework to review programmes, April 2019

Major programmes are expensive, high profile and carry great uncertainties and risks. It is not surprising that many fall short of their objectives, in terms of cost and/or outcomes.

The NAO has completed about 140 reports on major projects and programmes since 2010. Based on this experience, this framework draws together the key questions the NAO ask when we review major programmes. It was developed for NAO value-for-money auditors to use when reviewing programmes, but may be useful for those seeking an overview of the NAO work on projects and programmes.

The questions are structured into four sections:

- Purpose: Is there a strategic need for the programme and is this the right programme to meet the business need?
- Value: Does the programme provide value for money?
- Programme set-up: Is the programme set up in accordance with good practice and are risks being well managed?
- Delivery and variation management: Are mechanisms in place to deliver the intended outcomes and respond to change, and is the programme progressing according to plan?

There are 18 key questions, each illustrated with examples of good practice and lessons learnt from previous NAO reports.

The Framework also outlines the NAO's related resources that provide further support for examining issues in more depth.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/framework-to-review-programmes/>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS – NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

2. Round-up for Audit Committees, March 2019

This interactive round-up of NAO publications is intended to help Audit Committees, Boards and other users by outlining the latest NAO resources for governance and oversight, risk management and strategic management issues. It also sets out how to keep in touch with NAO insight on specific issues and/or sectors.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/round-up-for-audit-committees/>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - CIPFA

3. CIPFA Bulletin 03 Closure of the 2018/19 Financial Statements, March 2019

This bulletin covers the closure of accounts for the 2018/19 year and provides further guidance and clarification to complement the 2018/19 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: Guidance Notes for Practitioners (Code Guidance Notes). It addresses, where relevant, frequently asked questions and other issues that have arisen since the publication of the 2018/19 Code Guidance Notes.

Key areas covered include:

- A lengthy section of clarification on Financial Instruments, in particular the impact of the implementation of IFRS9 and IFRS15 on Local Authority accounts
- Streamlining the Accounts guidance
- Analysis of debtors and creditors
- EU withdrawal
- Guaranteed Minimum Pensions

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/cipfa-bulletins/cipfa-bulletin-03-closure-201819>

4. Local Authority Capital Accounting - A Reference Manual for Practitioners, April 2019

Intended to be read alongside other CIPFA publications, including the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, the Guidance Notes for Practitioners and the Practitioner's Guide to Capital Finance in Local Government, this book demonstrates the requirements of capital accounting through fully worked and explained examples covering all the major transaction types and asset classes.

A comprehensive reference section, drawing upon frequently asked capital questions received by CIPFA's Finance Advisory Network, Technical Enquiry Service and TISonline discussion forum, provides further discussion of typical areas of concern.

There are top tips on the real-life application of the Code of Practice, including advice on the most effective use of financial systems, working with non-finance colleagues such as valuers, and getting through the external audit as smoothly as possible.

With clear cross-referencing to allow readers to follow a topic as it appeals to them, this publication provides unique insight and practical support in one of the most technical and demanding areas of local authority accounting.

This edition has been updated to reflect new statutory guidance and the suspension of arrangements for the recognition of the highways Network Asset. The opportunity has also been taken to add a few more frequently asked questions (FAQs).

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/l/local-authority-capital-accounting--a-reference-manual-for-practitioners>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - CIPFA

5. The Guide To Local Government Finance, April 2019

This guide covers the current arrangements and provides insights into possible future changes at a time when political uncertainty makes future developments difficult to foresee.

Covering both revenue and capital financing, this guide provides the reader with an introduction to the technical complexities of funding each type of expenditure.

The publication is presented in dedicated service areas that have their own funding streams and financial complexities. These include:

- capital finance
- budgeting and financial reporting
- treasury management
- auditing
- governance
- education
- housing
- police
- social care.

For those requiring more of an introduction to local government finance, CIPFA also produces an Introductory Guide to Local Government Finance that summarises the key information in a way that is aimed at non-finance specialists and those new to the sector.

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/t/the-guide-to-local-government-finance-2019>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - CIPFA

6. Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom 2019/20, April 2019

Local authorities in the United Kingdom are required to keep their accounts in accordance with 'proper (accounting) practices'. Public sector organisations responsible for locally delivered services are required by legislation to comply with the terms of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code). This 2019/20 edition of the Code has been developed by CIPFA/LASAAC and has effect for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2019.

The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority.

This edition of the Code introduces a number of important amendments relating both to context and an understanding of requirements, as well as changes in some of accounting requirements. In particular the following areas should be noted:

- Improved clarity regarding the specification of proper accounting practices, the Code's role in these, the impact of statutory accounting requirements on the annual accounts, and the manner in which they affect the presentation of local authority reserves, including the distinction between usable and unusable reserves
- Significant amendments to Chapter Two to reflect the revisions made by the IASB to the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework)
- Changes relating to the previous Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme and Landfill Allowances Schemes
- An additional section to address the treatment of the Apprenticeship Levy
- For Scottish authorities, recognition of the ability to present transfers to or from other statutory reserves, allowance for voluntary transfers between the Revaluation Reserve and the General Fund, and pension fund legislation amendments
- For Welsh authorities recognition of legislation changes relating to separate publication of pension fund accounts
- Amendments to Section 7.1 (Financial Instruments) arising from amendments made to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments
- Changes to group accounts requirements implementing scope clarifications for disclosure requirements.

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/c/code-of-practice-on-local-authority-accounting-in-the-united-kingdom-201920-book>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - CIPFA

7. Practitioners' Guide To Capital Finance, March 2019

This publication contains the background knowledge you need on capital finance and how to account for it. It summarises the key features of the systems of capital finance that operate under the Prudential Framework in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

It provides explanations and definitions of capital expenditure, credit arrangements and capital financing including minimum revenue provision (MRP) arrangements and local authority borrowing.

Its intention is to assist practitioners in managing the capital programmes of their authorities and in particular addressing the technical issues associated with the financing of the programme. It summarises the key capital finance implications of the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and associated regulations.

The publication uses worked examples throughout to allow practitioners to apply theoretical concepts to practical examples. In carrying extracts from the relevant legislation and the Prudential Code, the aim has been to produce a one-stop guide for both those with previous local authority capital finance knowledge and those new to the subject.

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/p/practitioners-guide-to-capital-finance-2019-edition>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - CIPFA

8. Local Government Application Note for the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, March 2019

This Application Note is aimed at those who play a significant part in shaping or managing the internal audit function within their organisations, including:

- chief executives
- chief financial officers and other senior management
- audit committees
- selected members within local government in the United Kingdom, as well as chief audit executives/heads of internal audit.

UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) have been developed to apply across the whole of the public sector in all sectors of government. The PSIAS are based on standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), with additional requirements and interpretations that make them directly applicable to the UK public sector. The PSIAS are developed jointly by the relevant internal audit standard setters (RIASS) for central government, local government, devolved government administration bodies and the National Health Service (NHS). The PSIAS set out requirements which apply generally to all UK public sector engagements, but do not include any sector requirements or guidance for specific parts of government.

CIPFA has been designated as the RIASS for local government. CIPFA recognises the need to supplement the PSIAS with additional information and guidance on the requirements and practice of internal audit in the local government environment, and this Application Note provides that guidance.

Included with the Application Note is an authoritative checklist for measuring the performance of internal audit against the requirements of the PSIAS and the Application Note, in line with PSIAS 1300 Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme. The checklist can be used for both the internal and external assessments required in PSIAS 1300-1322.

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications//local-government-application-note-for-the-uk-psias-2019-edition>

2. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

9. Twenty-first Century Councils, March 2019

This toolkit has been developed to help councils create the underlying policies, procedures, ethos and environment that encourages and empowers women, parents and carers to become local councillors and take on leadership positions.

The Local Government Association is encouraging councils to consider their existing practices, celebrate what is working, share good practice and take action to support councillors who are women, parents and carers.

The equal participation of women and men in local politics, as our elected councillors and as our leaders, is an important condition for effective democracy and good governance. Representative councils are best able to speak to, and for, their communities and to support the effective business of local government. Democracy and decision-making are strengthened when councillors reflect the people they seek to serve and represent.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/twenty-first-century-councils>

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