

Value for Money

Code of Audit Practice 2015

Cherwell District Council

June 2016



Building a better
working world

Background

- ▶ Requirement of Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 Section 21(1)
- ▶ NAO Code of Audit Practice 2015 implies 'reasonable assurance'
 - ▶ Need to plan and conduct risk assessment
 - ▶ Undertake sufficient work against any identified 'significant' risks

Overall Criterion

In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people

Sub-criteria and proper arrangements

Sub-Criteria	Proper Arrangements
Informed decision making	Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance
	Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information (including, where relevant, information from regulatory/monitoring bodies) to support informed decision making and performance management
	Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities
	Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control
Sustainable resource deployment	Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions
	Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities
	Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities
Working with partners and other third parties	Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities
	Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities
	Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities

Auditor's risk assessment

- ▶ Risk that the auditor will reach an incorrect conclusion on the arrangements (*as opposed to the risk that arrangements are inadequate*)
- ▶ Performed to determine nature and extent of any further work
- ▶ Undertaken only on significant risks
 - ▶ *A matter is significant if, in the auditor's professional view, it is reasonable to conclude that the matter would be of interest to the audited body or the wider public. Significance has both qualitative and quantitative aspects*

Auditor's risk assessment (2)

- ▶ Documented from, e.g:
 - ▶ Review of prior year auditors file, report and in future cumulative knowledge
 - ▶ Findings from other areas of the audit
 - ▶ Findings of other inspectorates/regulatory bodies
 - ▶ IA reports
 - ▶ AGS / Annual Report
 - ▶ Risk Registers
 - ▶ Board/Committee/Finance and Performance agenda papers and minutes
 - ▶ Key financial information and reports
 - ▶ Wider knowledge of the sector and developments.
 - ▶ NAO illustrative risks
-

Work undertaken

- ▶ Proportionate
- ▶ To a level sufficient to be clear on the conclusion, and reduce the initial audit risk

Reporting

- ▶ Audit Plan – risk assessment
- ▶ ISA260 – completion of fieldwork, results of work and proposed conclusion
- ▶ Auditor's report – conclusion (by exception)
- ▶ Also may need to consider wider reporting arrangements

Qualified Conclusions

Adverse

- ▶ Weakness in arrangements:
 - ▶ So significant in impact; or
 - ▶ So numerous in aspects of proper arrangements affected

Except for

- ▶ Weaknesses:
 - ▶ Sufficiently significant to report
 - ▶ Limited to specific issue or area
- ▶ Reporting: Concise summary of the information leading to that conclusion

Information Sources

Item	Location
Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/
NAO	http://www.nao.org.uk/
Code of Audit Practice	http://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Final-Code-of-Audit-Practice.pdf
Guidance and information for auditors	https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/