

Board of Management

Audit & Assurance Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 16 September 2020
Paper No.	AAC1-O
Agenda Item	5.7
Subject of Paper	External Audit Plan 2019-20
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Gary Devlin, Scott-Moncrieff
Date of production	September 2020
Action	For Discussion

1. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the attached External Audit Plan 2019-20.



Scott-Moncrieff
business advisers and accountants

With **Campbell Dallas**
a Capgemini company

City of Glasgow College

External Audit Annual Plan 2019/20

September 2020

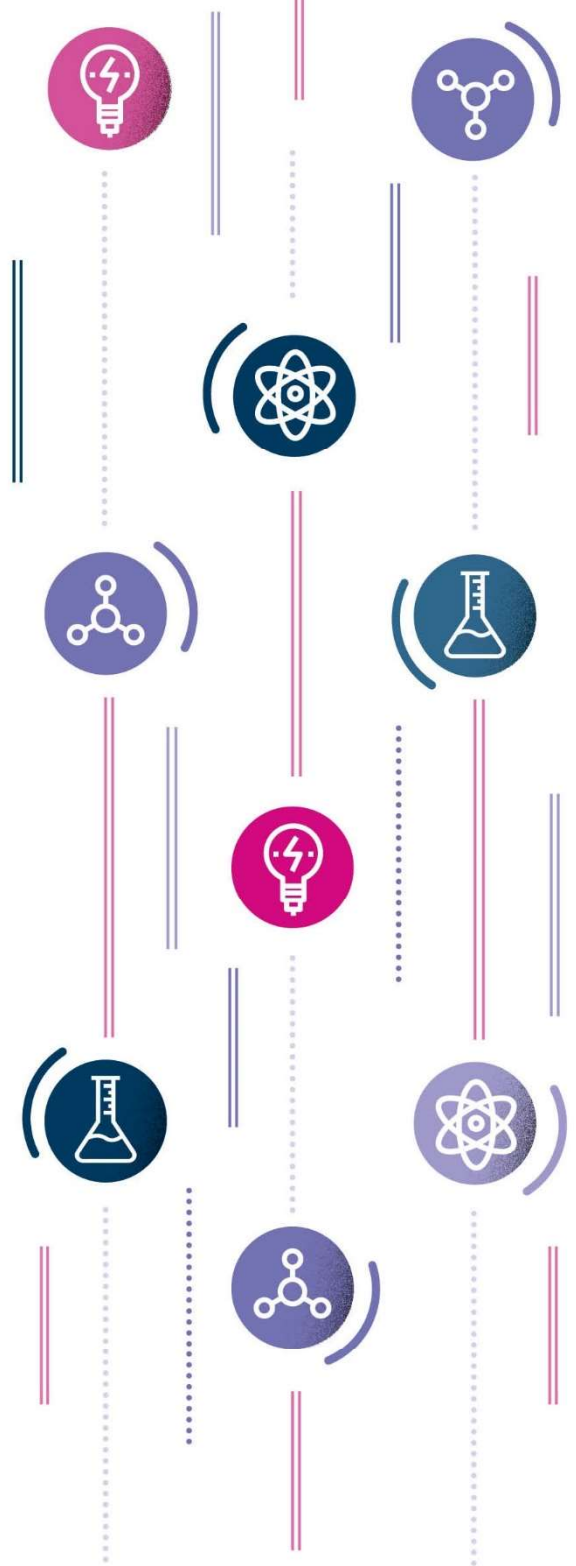




Table of contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Board of Management	3
3. Audit strategy	7
4. Annual report and accounts	9
5. Wider scope audit	16
6. Audit outputs, timetables and fees	22
7. Appendices	25



1. Introduction



Introduction

1. This document summarises the work plan for our 2019/20 external audit of City of Glasgow College (the “College”).
2. The core elements of our work include:
 - an audit of, and provision of a specified audit opinion, on the 2019/20 annual report and accounts;
 - Consideration and reporting on the College’s arrangements on the four audit dimensions: financial sustainability, financial management, governance and transparency and value for money;
 - monitoring the College’s participation in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI); and
 - any other work requested by Audit Scotland, including the contribution to performance audits (including overview reports, performance audit reports, and impact reports).

Audit appointment

3. The Auditor General for Scotland is an independent Crown appointment, made on the recommendation of the Scottish Parliament. The Auditor General is independent and not subject to control of any member of the Scottish Government or the Parliament. The Auditor General is responsible for securing the audit of the Scottish Government and most public bodies, including further education bodies in Scotland, and reporting to Parliament on their financial health and performance.
4. Audit Scotland is an independent statutory body that provides the Auditor General with the services required to carry out their statutory functions, including monitoring the performance of auditors through a quality control process.
5. The Auditor General has appointed Scott-Moncrieff as external auditor of City of Glasgow College for the five year period 2016/17 to 2020/21. This document comprises the audit plan for 2019/20 and summarises:
 - the responsibilities of Scott-Moncrieff as the external auditor;
 - our audit strategy;
 - our planned audit work and how we will approach it;
 - our proposed audit outputs and timetable; and
 - background to Scott-Moncrieff and the audit management team.

Confirmation of independence

6. International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) require us to communicate on a timely basis all facts and matters that may have a bearing on our independence.
7. We confirm that we comply with the Financial Reporting Council’s (FRC) Ethical Standards. In our professional judgement, the audit process is independent and our objectivity has not been compromised in any way.
8. We set out in Appendix 2 our assessment and confirmation of independence.

Adding value through the audit

9. All of our clients quite rightly demand of us a positive contribution to meeting their ever-changing business needs. Our aim is to add value to city of Glasgow College through our external audit work by being constructive and forward looking, by identifying areas of improvement and by recommending and encouraging good practice. In this way we aim to help the College promote improved standards of governance, better management and decision making and more effective use of resources.

Feedback

10. Any comments you may have on the service we provide, the quality of our work and our reports would be greatly appreciated at any time. Comments can be reported directly to any member of your audit team

Openness and transparency

11. This plan will be published on Audit Scotland’s website:
www.audit-scotland.gov.uk



2. Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Board of Management



Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Board of Management

Auditor responsibilities

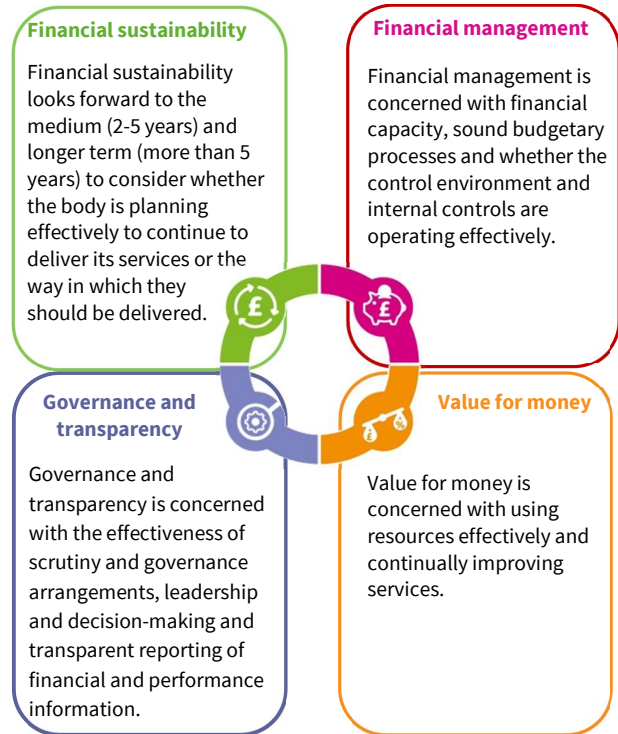
Code of Audit Practice

12. The Code of Audit Practice (the Code) outlines the responsibilities of external auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Scotland and it is a condition of our appointment that we follow it.

Our responsibilities

13. Auditor responsibilities are derived from statute, the Code, International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), professional requirements and best practice and cover their responsibilities when auditing financial statements and when discharging their wider scope responsibilities (paragraph 15). These are to:
- undertake statutory duties, and comply with professional engagement and ethical standards
 - provide an opinion on audited bodies' financial statements and, where appropriate, the regularity of transactions
 - review and report on, as appropriate, other information such as annual governance statements, management commentaries and remuneration reports
 - notify the Auditor General when circumstances indicate that a statutory report may be required
 - demonstrate compliance with the wider public audit scope (proportionate to the audited body) by reviewing and providing judgements and conclusions on the audited bodies':
 - effectiveness of performance management arrangements in driving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and assets;
 - suitability and effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements; and
 - financial position and arrangements for securing financial sustainability.
14. Weaknesses or risks identified by auditors are only those which have come to their attention during their normal audit work in accordance with the Code, and may not be all that exist. Communication by auditors of matters arising from the audit of the financial statements or of risks or weaknesses does not absolve management from its responsibility to address the issues raised and to maintain an adequate system of control.

Exhibit 1: Audit dimensions of wider scope public audit



Wider scope audit work

15. The special accountabilities that attach to the conduct of public business, and the use of public money, mean that public sector audits must be planned and undertaken from a wider perspective than in the private sector. This means providing assurance, not only on the financial statements, but providing audit judgements and conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance and performance management arrangements and financial sustainability.
16. The Code sets out four audit dimensions that frame the wider scope audit work into identifiable audit areas. These are summarised in Exhibit 1.
17. Our assessment takes into account the size, nature and risks of the organisation. Taking these factors into consideration, we have concluded that application of the full wider scope is appropriate at the College.



The Board of Management's responsibilities

18. The Board of Management has 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. The Board of Management's responsibilities are summarised in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2 – Board of Management responsibilities

Area	The Board of Management's responsibilities
<p>Financial statements: Annual accounts containing financial statements and other related reports should be prepared.</p>	<p>The Board of Management has responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of their financial position and their expenditure and income, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and relevant legislation; • maintaining accounting records and working papers that have been prepared to an acceptable professional standard and that support their financial statements and related reports disclosures; • ensuring the regularity of transactions, by putting in place systems of internal control to ensure that they are in accordance with the appropriate authority; • maintaining proper accounting records; and • preparing and publishing, along with their financial statements, an annual governance statement, management commentary (or equivalent) and a remuneration report that are consistent with the disclosures made in the financial statements.
<p>Financial sustainability: Financial sustainability looks forward to the medium and longer term to consider whether the organisation is planning effectively to continue to fulfil its functions in an affordable and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>The Board of Management is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure the financial position is soundly based having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such financial monitoring and reporting arrangements as may be specified; • Compliance with any statutory financial requirements and achievement of financial targets; • Balances and reserves, including strategies about levels and their future use; • How the organisation plans to deal with uncertainty in the medium and long term; and • The impact of planned future policies and foreseeable developments on the financial position.



Area	The Board of Management's responsibilities
<p>Financial management: Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively.</p>	<p>The Board of Management is responsible for ensuring that financial affairs are conducted in a proper manner. Management are responsible, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to communicate relevant information to users about the entity and its financial performance.</p> <p>The Board of Management is responsible for developing and implementing effective systems of internal control as well as financial, operational and compliance controls. These systems should support the achievement of their objectives and safeguard and secure value for money from the public funds at its disposal.</p> <p>The Board of Management is responsible for establishing arrangements to prevent and detect fraud, error and irregularities, bribery and corruption and also to ensure that its affairs are managed in accordance with proper standards of conduct by putting proper arrangements in place.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Board of Management is responsible for establishing arrangements to ensure the proper conduct of their affairs including the legality of activities and transactions, and for monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements. Those charged with governance should be involved in monitoring these arrangements.</p> <p>The Board of Management is also responsible for establishing effective and appropriate internal audit and risk management functions.</p>
<p>Value for money: Value for money is concerned with the appropriate use of resources and ensuring continual improvement of services delivered.</p>	<p>The Board of Management has a specific responsibility to ensure that arrangements have been made to secure best value. Audited bodies are responsible for ensuring that these matters are given due priority and resources, and that proper procedures are established and operate satisfactorily.</p>



3. Audit strategy



Audit strategy

Risk-based audit approach

19. We follow a risk-based approach to audit planning that reflects our overall assessment of the relevant risks that apply to the College. This ensures that our

audit focuses on the areas of highest risk. Our audit planning is based on:

Discussions with senior officers	Our understanding of the further education sector and its key priorities and risks	Attendance at the Audit Committee
Guidance from Audit Scotland	Discussions with Audit Scotland and other sector auditors	Review of internal audit's plans and reports
Review of the College's corporate strategies and plans	Review of the College's corporate risk register	The outcomes of prior year audits

20. Planning is a continuous process and our audit plans are therefore updated during the course of our audit to take account of developments as they arise.

the audit. This helps, for example, to identify common priorities and risks, treat consistently any issues arising that impact on a number of audited bodies, and further develop an efficient and effective approach to public audit. We share information about identified risks, good practices and barriers to improvement so that lessons to be learnt and knowledge of what works can be disseminated to all relevant bodies.

Communications with those charged with governance

21. Auditing standards require us to make certain communications throughout the audit to those charged with governance. We have agreed with the College that these communications will be through the Audit Committee.

25. Audit Scotland undertakes national performance audits on issues affecting the public sector. We will review the College arrangements for taking action on any issues reported in the national performance reports which may have a local impact. We also consider the extent to which the College uses the national performance reports as a means to help improve performance at the local level.

Professional standards and guidance

22. We perform our audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), the International Standard on Quality Control 1 (UK), Ethical Standards, and applicable Practice Notes and other guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

26. During the year we may also be required to provide information to Audit Scotland to support the national performance audits or provide information to support the assessment of the impact of specified published performance audit reports.

Partnership working

23. We will coordinate our work with Audit Scotland, internal audit, other external auditors and relevant scrutiny bodies, recognising the increasing integration of service delivery and partnership working within the public sector.

Internal audit

27. The College's internal audit service is provided by Henderson Loggie. We are committed to avoiding duplication of audit effort and ensuring an efficient use of the College's total audit resource. We will consider the findings of the work of internal audit within our audit process and look to minimise duplication of effort, to ensure the total audit resource available to the College is used efficiently and effectively.

Audit Scotland

24. Although we are independent of Audit Scotland and are responsible for forming our own views and opinions, we do work closely with them throughout



4. Annual report and accounts



Annual report and accounts

Introduction

28. Audited bodies' annual report and accounts are an essential part of accounting for their stewardship of the resources made available to them and their financial performance in the use of those resources. This section sets out our approach to the audit of the College's annual report and accounts.
29. The annual report and accounts of the College comprise the financial statements, the performance report and the accountability report.

Approach to audit of the financial statements

30. Our opinion on the financial statements will be based on:

Risk-based audit planning

31. We focus our work on the areas of highest risk. As part of our planning process we prepare a risk assessment highlighting the audit risk relating to each of the key systems on which the financial statements will be based.

An audit of key systems and internal controls

32. We evaluate the key accounting systems and internal controls and determine whether they are adequate to prevent material misstatements in the financial statements
33. The systems we review and the nature of the work we perform will be based on the initial risk assessment. We examine and test compliance with best practice and the College's own policies and procedures.
34. We take cognisance of any relevant internal audit reviews of systems and controls.
35. We update the risk assessment following our evaluation of systems and controls which ensures that we continue to focus attention on the areas of highest risk.

A final audit of the financial statements

36. During our final audit we will test and review the material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The extent of testing will be based on our risk assessment.
37. Our final audit will seek to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free

from material misstatement and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (the SORP), HM Treasury Financial Reporting Manual 2019/20 (FRM) and the SFC's Accounts Direction.

38. In order to provide assurance on the regularity of transactions, we also review whether, in all material respects, expenditure has been incurred and income applied in accordance with guidance issued by Scottish Ministers.

Independent auditor's report

39. Our opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and of the regularity of transactions will be set out in our independent auditor's report which will be included in the annual report and accounts.
40. We also provide an opinion on the audited part of the remuneration and staff report, governance statement and performance report.

Materiality

41. Materiality is an expression of the relative significance of a matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. A matter is material if its omission or misstatement would reasonably influence the decisions of an addressee of the auditor's report. The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement over both the amount and the nature of the misstatement. We review our assessment of materiality throughout our audit.
42. Performance materiality is the working level of materiality used throughout the audit. We use performance materiality to determine the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures carried out. We perform audit procedures on all transactions, or groups of transactions, and balances that exceed our performance materiality. This means that we perform a greater level of testing on the areas deemed to be at significant risk of material misstatement.
43. Performance materiality is set at a value less than overall materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of the uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceed overall materiality.



44. Our initial assessment of materiality and performance materiality is set out in the table below.

	Materiality £000
Overall materiality: Our initial assessment of materiality for the financial statements is £1.873 million (approximately 1.8% of the 2018/19 expenditure), which is considered one of the principal considerations for users of the financial statements when assessing performance.	1,873
Performance materiality: using our professional judgement we have calculated performance materiality at approximately 75% of overall materiality.	1405

45. We will also report any misstatements identified through our audit that fall into one of the following categories:

- All material corrected misstatements;
- Uncorrected misstatements with a value in excess of 5% of the overall materiality figure; and
- Other misstatements below the 5% threshold that we believe warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.

Key audit risks in the financial statements

46. Auditing standards require that we inform the Audit Committee of our assessment of the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements. We have set out our initial assessment below, including how the scope of our audit responds to those risks. We will provide an update to the Audit Committee if our assessment changes significantly during the audit.

Exhibit 3 – Key audit risks in the financial statements

1. Management override

In any organisation, there exists a risk that management has the ability to process transactions or make adjustments to the financial records outside the normal financial control processes. Such issues could lead to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This is treated as a presumed risk area in accordance with ISA (UK) 240 - *The auditor’s responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements*.




47. In response to this risk we will review the College’s accounting records and obtain evidence for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business to ensure these are valid and accounted for correctly. We will adopt data analytics techniques to review and test aspects of this significant risk. We will review the key accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management. This will include, for example, depreciation and amortisation rates, asset valuations, provisions and bad debt analysis.




2. Revenue recognition

Under ISA (UK) 240- *The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements* there is a presumed risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition. The presumption is that the College could adopt accounting policies or recognise revenue transactions in such a way as to lead to a material misstatement in the reported financial position.

- 
48. As part of our planning process we have considered the nature of the revenue streams at the College against the risk factors set out in ISA (UK) 240. We have identified that for Scottish Funding Council (SFC) grant funding the risk of revenue recognition can be rebutted due to a lack of incentive and opportunity to manipulate revenue of this nature. We have concluded, however, the risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition is present in all other income streams.
 49. We will review and evaluate each material revenue stream, including the controls over revenue accounting. We will conduct substantive testing on all material revenue streams to confirm revenue has been recognised appropriately and in line with accounting policies.

3. Risk of fraud in the recognition of expenditure

In 2016, the Public Audit Forum issued Practice Note 10 "*The Audit of Public Sector Financial Statements*" which applies to the audit of public sector financial statements for periods commencing after June 2016. This Practice Note recognises that most public sector bodies are net spending bodies and notes that there is an increased risk of material misstatement due to improper recognition of expenditure.

- 
50. In response to this risk we will evaluate the significant expenditure streams at the College (this will include payroll however it is not deemed to be a significant risk area) and review the controls in place over accounting for expenditure. We will consider the College's key areas of expenditure and obtain evidence that the expenditure was recorded in line with appropriate accounting policies and the policies have been applied consistently across the year.



4. Estates valuation

The College has invested significantly in its estate in recent years through PPP contracts for the City and Riverside campus developments. Funding for these developments is partly reliant on future asset sales and a one college site has recently been sold with a number of other sites currently held for sale. The carrying value of assets in the College's accounts are based on a range of estimates and small changes in estimate have the potential to result in a material change in asset valuation. In addition, we understand that the College will be directed by the SFC to transfer the proceeds from the sale of assets during the year to other Colleges within the sector. The accounting for this transaction has not yet been finalised.

51. We will review the arrangements in place in relation to the accounting for these developments. We will review the reasonableness of the treatment, any related assumptions, the use of any experts, and any other observable data. We will agree the disclosures in the financial statements to information provided and underlying nature of the transactions and balances.

5. Pension Assumptions

An actuarial estimate of the pension fund asset/liability is calculated on an annual basis under FRS 102 and on a triennial funding basis by an independent firm of actuaries with specialist knowledge and experience. The estimates are based on the most up to date membership date held by the pension fund and have regard to local factors such as mortality rates and expected pay rises with other assumptions around inflation when calculating the liabilities. There is a risk that the assumptions used are not appropriate.


52. We will review the controls in place to ensure that the data provided from the pension fund to the actuary is complete and accurate. We will review the reasonableness of the assumptions used in the calculation against other local government pension fund actuaries and other observable data. We will agree the disclosures in the financial statements to information provided by the actuary.



5. Covid-19

The current Covid-19 pandemic presents a number of unprecedented challenges to the operation, financial management and governance of an organisation. Systems and processes have been amended to support remote working, governance arrangements and decision making has moved to a virtual environment and many organisations are forecasting large operating deficits due to loss of income and additional cost pressures.

There is increasing uncertainty of how long these challenges will persist and as a result, the extent of the impact on the preparation and audit of the 2019/20 annual report and financial statements remains unknown. We will continue to monitor government and relevant announcements as they pertain to the audit of the College and adapt our audit approach as required.

- 
53. We will monitor the emerging situation and liaise with the College to ensure they continue to adopt robust governance arrangements and maintain an appropriate system of internal control. We will review the year-end process to ensure this supports the preparation of true and fair financial statements, including consideration of management estimates, valuations and the necessary supporting disclosures.
 54. We will work with management to agree an efficient and timely audit approach to ensure we continue to receive appropriate and sufficient audit evidence, in line with auditing standards.

The performance report, accountability report and other information

55. The HM Treasury Government Financial Reporting Manual 2019/20 sets out the content required within the annual report and accounts. In addition to presenting our opinions over the financial statements our independent auditor's report will also present our opinion on other aspects of the annual report and accounts:

Other information

56. "Other information" in the annual report and accounts comprises any information other than the financial statements and our independent auditor's report thereon. We do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the "other information" except as specifically stated below.
57. We read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report and accounts to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our independent auditor's report.

The performance report

58. The performance report provides information on the entity, its main objectives and strategies and the principal risks that it faces. It contains:
 - an overview of the organisation, its purpose, the key risks to the achievement of its objectives and how it has performed during the year; and
 - a detailed summary of how the entity measures its performance.

59. Our independent auditor's report will confirm whether in our opinion the performance report has been properly prepared and is consistent with the financial statements.

The accountability report

60. The accountability report is required in order to meet key parliamentary accountability requirements. It has three sections:
 - A corporate governance report (including a governance statement) explaining the composition and organisation of the entity's governance structures and how they support the achievement of the entity's objectives.



- A remuneration and staff report setting out staff numbers and costs as well as the entity's remuneration policy for directors and the remuneration awarded to directors.
 - A parliamentary accountability report disclosing the regularity of expenditure and other parliamentary accountability requirements.
61. Our independent auditor's report will confirm whether in our opinion the governance statement and the audited part of the remuneration and staff report have been properly prepared and are consistent with the financial statements.



5. Wider scope audit



Wider scope audit

Introduction

62. As described in section 2, the Code frames a significant part of our audit responsibilities in terms of four wider scope audit dimensions. As part of our annual audit we consider and report against these four dimensions:
- financial sustainability
 - financial management
 - governance and transparency; and
 - value for money.
63. Our planned audit work against the four dimensions is risk based and proportionate. Our initial assessment builds upon our work in prior years to develop an understanding of the College's key priorities and risks. In 2019/20, Audit Scotland has also identified the following wider scope risks, which we will consider during our audit as they relate to the College:
- Fraud and corruption in respect of the procurement function; and
 - EU withdrawal
64. At this stage of our audit planning, we have identified one significant risk to the wider scope of our audit in relation to financial sustainability. (Exhibit 4).
65. We have not, at this stage, identified any significant risks in relation to the other dimensions. Audit planning however is a continuous process and we will report any identified significant risks, as they relate to the four dimensions, in our annual audit report. Exhibit 4 summarises our audit work in respect of each dimension.

Exhibit 4 – Wider Scope Significant Risks

1. Financial sustainability

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) requires colleges to prepare five year Financial Forecast Returns (FFRs). We reported in our 2018/19 Annual Audit Report that the College prepared a FFR, in line with SFC guidance, which forecast a small surplus in each of the next 5 years.

We reported in our 2018/19 Annual Audit Report that the FFR assumes that the current savings programme identified by the College is implemented as planned. Any set-backs in the execution of this programme could have significant financial implications for the College in meeting their targets.

We will assess the impact Covid-19 will have on the College's ability to deliver their services and what impact this will have on its financial plans.

During our 2019/20 audit we will continue to review whether the College implements the current savings programme as planned to enable it to maintain a financially sustainable position and deliver the savings required. Our work will include analysis of the achievement of savings and income generation plans for 2019/20, the development of savings plans for future years, and consideration of the underlying financial position. We will request information as to the effect COVID-19 has had on the College's financial position, both as at the year-end and post year-end. This will include any additional spend incurred due to COVID-19, any loss of income or any impact on credits funding. In addition, we will require information surrounding the impact on the operations and management of the College.



Financial sustainability

Financial sustainability looks forward to the medium and longer term to consider whether the organisation's planning processes support the future delivery of services.

Consideration

Our audit approach

As noted in Exhibit 4:

The College has forecast a small surplus position for the period to 2023/24.

The College has a long term ambition to substantially increase non SFC income, however the other income forecast is prudent given the decline of non- government income generated across the sector in recent years.

The current Covid-19 pandemic presents a number of unprecedented challenges to the operation, financial management and governance of an organisation. Systems and processes have been amended to support remote working, governance arrangements and decision making has moved to a virtual environment and many organisations are forecasting large operating deficits due to loss of income and additional cost pressures.

There is increasing uncertainty of how long these challenges will persist and as a result, the extent of the impact on the preparation and audit of the 2019/20 annual report and financial statements remains unknown. We will continue to monitor government and relevant announcements as they pertain to the audit of the College and adapt our audit approach as required.

During our 2019/20 audit we will update our assessment of the College's financial standing. This will involve a review of the arrangements in place for short, medium and long term financial planning, budgetary control and financial reporting.

Our work will also consider the adequacy of the College's preparations and scenario planning for the impact of EU withdrawal and key financial assumptions such as the impact of further national bargaining costs.

We will monitor the emerging COVID-19 situation and liaise with the College to ensure they continue to adopt robust governance arrangements and maintain an appropriate system of internal control. We will review the year-end process to ensure this supports the preparation of true and fair financial statements, including consideration of management estimates, valuations and the necessary supporting disclosures.

We will work with management to agree an efficient and timely audit approach to ensure we continue to receive appropriate and sufficient audit evidence, in line with auditing standards.



Financial management

Financial management is concerned with financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively.

Consideration

In 2018/19 we found that the College had satisfactory arrangements in place for financial planning over the short term and budget monitoring across the financial year

Leaders of public bodies have a responsibility to embed effective standards for countering fraud and corruption in their organisations¹. In 2019/20, Audit Scotland has identified fraud and corruption in respect of the procurement function as a particular risk area and audit focus.

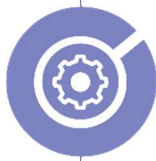
The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a counter fraud exercise co-ordinated by Audit Scotland working together with a range of Scottish public bodies, external auditors and overseen by the Cabinet Office for the UK as a whole to identify fraud and error. The most recent NFI exercise commenced in 2018 and as part of our 2019/20 audit we will continue to monitor the College's participation in the NFI.

Our audit approach

During our 2019/20 audit we will review, conclude and report on the following:

- Whether the College has arrangements in place to ensure systems of internal control are operating effectively;
- Whether the College can demonstrate the effectiveness of its budgetary control system in communicating accurate and timely performance;
- How the College has assured itself that its financial capacity and skills are appropriate;
- Whether the College has established appropriate and effective arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption, with particular focus on fraud and corruption in the procurement function; and
- The College's participation and progress in the National Fraud Initiative. In February 2020, we completed and submitted to Audit Scotland a questionnaire on the College's participation in the NFI. The information provided will be used in Audit Scotland's next NFI report due to be published in 2020.

¹ <https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/reports/code-of-practice-on-managing-the-risk-of-fraud-and-corruption>



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.

Consideration

In 2018/19 we concluded that governance arrangements at the College are deemed to be appropriate, however we noted that the governance role of GCRB across the region is still developing and more work is needed to formalise its governance relationship with the assigned Colleges.

Openness and transparency support understanding and scrutiny. There is an ongoing sector risk regarding the openness and transparency of decision making, which is highlighted by Audit Scotland. Public sector bodies are expected to review their approach to openness and transparency to ensure they are meeting good practice.

In May 2018 the Scottish Government updated its guidance for audit committees in the public sector through an update to its Audit Committee Handbook.

The revised handbook sets out the fundamental principles relating to the role, membership and work of the Audit and Assurance Committees.

Our audit approach

As part of our work on governance and transparency in 2019/20 we will review, conclude and report on:

- whether the College can demonstrate that the governance arrangements in place are appropriate and operating effectively;
- whether induction arrangements for new Board members support effective scrutiny and challenge;
- whether the College is compliant with the revised Scottish Government's Audit Committee Handbook;
- the transparency of decision-making, and on financial and performance reporting;
- the College's preparations for the potential impact of EU Withdrawal; and
- the ongoing relationship with the GCRB and consider the implications for the College in terms of their governance arrangements.



Value for money

Value for money is concerned with the appropriate use of resources and ensuring continual improvement of services delivered.

Consideration

In 2018/19 we reported that the College demonstrated commitment to achieving value for money through its annual performance and its goal of ensuring operational effectiveness and efficiency. We found that the College was currently not achieving its targets for student success rates across all categories.

The College use a range of targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor performance against key targets and performance measures.

Performance is monitored by the Board and relevant sub-committees throughout the year.

Our audit approach

We will work with the College to identify and review evidence which demonstrates the achievement of value for money in the use of resources.

We will seek evidence from the College that outcomes are improving and there is sufficient focus on continuous improvement and the pace and sustainability of that improvement.

Audit Scotland carries out a national performance audit programme on behalf of the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission. We will work with Audit Scotland during the year to understand the outputs from this work and identify any particular reports that the College may have a direct interest in.



6. Audit outputs, timetables and fees



Audit outputs, timetable and fees

This section of our plan provides details of our audit outputs, timetable and proposed audit fees for the audit of the College.

Audit output	Format	Description	Target month
External audit plan	Report	This report sets out the scope of our audit for 2019/20	June 2020
Independent Auditor's Report	Report	This report will contain our opinion on the financial statements, the regularity of transactions and the audited part of the remuneration report, annual governance statement and performance report.	November 2020 Audit Committee
Annual Report to the College and the Auditor General for Scotland	Report	At the conclusion of each year's audit we issue an annual report setting out the nature and extent of our audit work for the year and summarise our opinions, conclusions and the significant issues arising from our work. This report pulls together all of our work under the Code of Audit Practice.	November 2020 Audit Committee

Audit outputs

66. Prior to submitting our outputs, we will discuss all issues with management to confirm factual accuracy and agree a draft action plan where appropriate.
67. The action plans within the reports will include prioritised recommendations, responsible officers and implementation dates. We will review progress against the action plans on a regular basis.

	2019/20	2018/19
Auditor remuneration	£39,413	£37,536
Pooled costs	£1,950	£1,950
Audit support costs	£2,050	£2,050
Total fee	£43,413	£41,500

Audit fee

68. Audit Scotland sets an expected fee for each audit carried out under appointment that assumes the body has sound governance arrangements in place, has been operating effectively throughout the year, prepares comprehensive and accurate draft accounts and meets the agreed timetable for audit. The expected fee is reviewed by Audit Scotland each year and adjusted if necessary based on auditors' experience, new requirements, or significant changes to the audited body.
69. As auditors we negotiate a fee with the audited body during the planning process. The fee may be varied above the expected fee level to reflect the circumstances and local risks within the body.
70. For 2019/20 we propose setting the audit fee at 5% above the expected fee level. We are expecting that given the impact the Covid-19 pandemic will have on the College that there will additional audit procedures which we have laid out in our plan. The fee for City of Glasgow College for the 2019/20 audit is as follows:
71. We will take account of the risk exposure of the College and the management assurances in place. We assume receipt of the draft working papers at the outset of our on-site final audit visit. If the draft accounts and papers are late, or agreed management assurances are unavailable, we reserve the right to charge an additional fee for additional audit work.



Audit timetable

72. A summary timetable, including audit outputs, is set out as follows:

JUNE 20	●	Planning meeting to inform the 2019/20 audit
JUNE 20	●	Presentation of External Audit Plan to the Audit Committee
JUL 20	●	Catch up with College Finance Team to discuss any emerging issues, challenges and risks
OCT 20	●	Accounts presented for audit and final audit visit begins
NOV 20/ DEC 20	●	Annual audit report presented to the Audit Committee and submitted to the Auditor General for Scotland



7. Appendices



Appendix 1: Your audit management team

Scott-Moncrieff is one of Scotland’s leading firms of auditors and business advisers. We are part of the fast-growing Cogital Group, giving us both a UK-wide presence and international reach in 190 offices with 6,500 staff. Cogital Group is an innovator, investor and early adopter of technologies that provide continuous improvement to the services we provide our clients.

Scott-Moncrieff have been external auditors within the public sector for at least fifty years. We provide a comprehensive range of services to clients across the public sector, including NHS bodies, local authorities, central government bodies and FE colleges. We also provide services to charities, schools as well as private and public limited companies. Scott Moncrieff’s offices are as follows:

Edinburgh	Glasgow	Inverness
Exchange Place 3 Semple Street Edinburgh EH3 8BL	25 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 6NL	10 Ardross Street Inverness IV3 5NS
(0131) 473 3500	(0141) 567 4500	(01463) 701 940

Your audit management team

Gary Devlin

Engagement Lead

gary.devlin@scott-moncrieff.com



Gary is responsible for Scott-Moncrieff’s work in the public sector and further and higher education sectors. He has over 20 years’ experience in providing audit, assurance and advisory services to a wide range of clients and is an expert on governance and risk reviews in the public, charity and education sectors.

Gary experience spans internal audit, external audit and risk management services and he is the partner in charge of a range of our HE and FE internal and external audit appointments. Gary is the appointed auditor to Glasgow Clyde College, Glasgow Kelvin College, the City of Glasgow College and the Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board



Aileen Ogston

Audit manager

Aileen.ogston@scott-moncrieff.com



Aileen has extensive experience in commercial and public sector external audit. She has delivered external audit services to other further education bodies and a range of commercial sectors.

Aileen will manage the onsite team and work alongside Gary to deliver the audit engagement



Appendix 2: Confirmation of independence

International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 "Communication with those charged with governance" requires us to communicate on a timely basis all facts and matters that may have a bearing on our independence.

In particular, FRC's Ethical Standards stipulate that where an auditor undertakes non audit work, appropriate safeguards must be applied to reduce or eliminate any threats to independence. Scott-Moncrieff has not been appointed by the College to provide any non-audit services during the year.

We confirm that we comply with FRC's Ethical Standards. In our professional judgement, the audit process is independent and our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. In particular there are and have been no relationships between Scott-Moncrieff and the College, its Board members and senior management that may reasonably be thought to bear on our objectivity and independence.



Appendix 3: Statement of understanding

Introduction

The purpose of this statement of understanding is to clarify the terms of our appointment and the key responsibilities of the College's Board of Management and Scott-Moncrieff.

Annual report and accounts

We will require the annual report and accounts and supporting working papers for audit by the agreed date specified in the audit timetable. It is assumed that the relevant College staff will have adequate time available to deal with audit queries and will be available up to the expected time of completion of the audit. We will issue a financial statements strategy in advance of our final audit visit which sets out our expectations in terms of audit deliverables. This document helps to ensure we can work together effectively to deliver an efficient and effective audit.

Scope of audit

As auditors we will take reasonable steps to plan and carry out the audit so as to meet the objectives and comply with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice. Audit work will be planned and performed on the basis of our assessment of audit risks, so as to obtain such information and explanations as are considered necessary to provide sufficient evidence to meet the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice.

As auditors we do not act as a substitute for the College's responsibility to establish proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

As part of our normal audit procedures, we will ask you to provide written confirmation of certain oral representations which we have received from the College during the course of the audit on matters having a material effect on the annual report and accounts. This will take place by means of a letter of representation, which will require to be signed by the Principal.

Internal audit

It is the responsibility of the College to establish adequate internal audit arrangements. The audit fee is agreed on the basis that an effective internal audit function exists.

We will liaise with internal audit to ensure an efficient audit process.

Fraud and irregularity

In order to discharge our responsibilities regarding fraud and irregularity we require any fraud or irregularity issues

to be reported to us as they arise. In particular we require to be notified of all frauds which:

- Involve the misappropriation of theft of assets or cash which are facilitated by weaknesses in internal control
- Are over £5,000

We also require a historic record of instances of fraud or irregularity to be maintained and a summary to be made available to us after each year end.

Anti-money laundering

The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 impose an obligation on the Auditor General to inform the National Crime Agency (NCA) if they know or suspect that any person has engaged in money laundering or terrorist financing.

We require the Board to notify us on a timely basis of any suspected instances of money laundering so that we can inform Audit Scotland who will determine the necessary course of action.

Ethics

We are bound by the ethical guidelines of our professional body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Fees

We base our agreed fee upon the assumption that all of the required information for the audit is available within the agreed timetable. If the information is not available within the timetable we reserve the right to charge a fee for the additional time spent by our staff. The fee will depend upon the level of skill and responsibility of the staff involved. The indicative financial statements strategy referred to above is a key means for us to clarify our expectations in terms of quality, quantity and extent of working papers and supporting documentation.

Service

If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving please let us know by contacting Gary Devlin. If you are not satisfied, you should contact our Ethics Partner, Bernadette Higgins. In the event of your not being satisfied by our response, you may also wish to bring the matter to the attention of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

We undertake to look at any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you.



Reports

During the course of the audit we will produce reports detailing the results and conclusions from our work. Any recommendations arising from our audit work will be included in an action plan. Management are responsible for providing responses, including target dates for implementation and details of the responsible officer.

Agreement of terms

We shall be grateful if the Audit Committee would consider and note this statement of understanding. If the contents are not in accordance with your understanding of our terms of appointment, please let us know.

