

AUDIT COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND

Comments per Section

2. Audit Committee Principles

- Recognising that there is a clear value in developing a “checklist” for use to assess the extent to which Audit Committee principles are in place within each Council, there appears to be a duplication or replication of information when compared with the proposed “Model Committee Remit”.
- The model criteria mention the “Unfettered right of attendance by external audit at audit committee meetings” but excludes any reference to a similar right for Internal Audit. This omission should be corrected.

3. Delivering Audit Committee Principles

- Paragraph 3.14, Both Internal Audit and the External Auditor should have the right (or be required?) to attend all meetings of the committee where audit business is discussed.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Paragraph 4.22, as above there are inconsistencies throughout the Guidance Note, regarding the attendance by Internal & External Audit.

5. Model Committee Remit

- Whilst recognising that there is clear value in developing a model that highlights the practicalities involved in achieving audit committee principles, the proposed model “remit” seems to be a mixture of both of the following:
 - Specific roles, activities which the Audit Committee should undertake in order to fulfil its remit
 - Specific issues related to the administrative and structural arrangements for the Audit Committee.

The model does not make a sufficiently clear distinction between the remit of, and the administrative and structural arrangements for the Audit Committee.