



ORIGINATOR: ERNST & YOUNG LLP
(EXTERNAL AUDITORS)

PAPER NO: AC25/13

SUBMITTED TO: AUDIT COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2025

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE YEAR-ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

SUMMARY:

1. The report attached is the External Audit Plan for the year-ended 31 March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Audit Committee is requested to consider the attached report.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary

Audit Plan

Year ending 31 March 2025

29 April 2025



The better the question. The better the answer. The better the world works.



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Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary
Suffolk Police Headquarters
Portal Avenue
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
IP5 3QS

29 April 2025

Dear Tim and Rachel

Audit Plan

We are pleased to attach the Audit Plan for the upcoming meeting of the Joint Independent Audit Committee. This report aims to provide the Joint Independent Audit Committee of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable (CC) with a basis to review the proposed audit approach and scope for the 2024/25 audit. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office's 2024 Code of Audit Practice, the Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd, auditing standards, and other professional requirements. This report summarises our evaluation of the key issues driving the development of an effective audit. We have aligned our audit approach and scope accordingly. The report also addresses the broader impact of Government proposals aimed at establishing a sustainable local audit system.

As those charged with governance, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable play a crucial role in ensuring assurance over both the quality of the draft financial statements prepared by management and the PCC and CC's wider arrangements to support a timely and efficient audit. Failure to achieve this will affect the level of resources required to fulfil our responsibilities. We will assess and report on the adequacy of the PCC and CC's external financial reporting arrangements, as well as the effectiveness of the Joint Independent Audit Committee in fulfilling its role within those arrangements as part of our Value for Money assessment. We will also consider invoking other statutory reporting powers to highlight any weaknesses in these arrangements if deemed necessary. We direct Joint Independent Audit Committee members and officers to the Public Sector Audit Appointment Limited's Statement of Responsibilities (paragraphs 26-28) for expectations on preparing financial statements (see Appendix A).

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the PCC, CC, Joint Independent Audit Committee and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be used, by anyone other than these specified parties.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this report with you on 30 May 2025 as well as understand whether there are other matters which you consider may influence our audit.

Yours faithfully

Debbie Hanson
For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP
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Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) issued the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. It is available from the PSAA website (<https://www.psaa.co.uk/managing-audit-quality/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies-from-2023-24-audits/>). The Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas. The 'Terms of Appointment and further guidance (updated July 2021) issued by the PSAA (<https://www.psaa.co.uk/managing-audit-quality/terms-of-appointment/terms-of-appointment-and-further-guidance-1-july-2021/>) sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice 2024 (the NAO Code) and in legislation, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This report is made solely to the PCC, CC, Joint Independent Audit Committee and management of Suffolk Police. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the PCC, CC, Joint Independent Audit Committee and management of Suffolk Police those matters we are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC, cc Joint Independent Audit Committee and management of Suffolk Police for this report or for the opinions we have formed. It should not be provided to any third-party without our prior written consent.



01

2024/25 audit strategy overview

2024/25 audit strategy overview

Context

Timely, high-quality financial reporting and audit of local bodies play a crucial role in our democratic system. It aids in effective decision-making by local bodies and ensures transparency and accountability to local taxpayers. There is a consensus that the delay in publishing audited financial statements by local bodies has reached an unacceptable level, and it is acknowledged that cooperation among all stakeholders in the sector is necessary to address this issue. The reasons for the backlog are well-documented and include:

- Insufficient capacity within the local authority financial accounting profession.
- Increased complexity of reporting requirements within the sector.
- Insufficient capacity within audit firms with public sector experience.
- Heightened regulatory pressure on auditors, leading to an expanded scope and extent of audit procedures performed.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has collaborated with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and other system partners to develop and implement measures to address the backlog. SI 2024/907, along with the NAO Code and the Local Authority Reset and Recovery Implementation Guidance, have been created to ensure auditor compliance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)). In February 2025, responsibilities for leadership of the local audit system transferred from the FRC back to MHCLG. This change follows the December 2024 launch of the Government's strategy for reforming the local audit system in England, which includes plans to establish a Local Audit Office. The approach to addressing the backlog consists of three phases:

- Phase 1: Reset; clearing the backlog of historic audit opinions up to and including financial year 2022/23 by 13 December 2024. This is largely complete.
- Phase 2: Recovery from Phase 1; from 2023/24, use backstop dates to prevent a recurrence of the backlog and allow assurance to be rebuilt over multiple audit cycles. The backstop date for the audit of the 2024/25 financial statements is 27 February 2026. Auditors are waiting for guidance from the system leader to effectively, efficiently and consistently build back assurance over disclaimed audit periods.
- Phase 3: Reform; involving addressing systemic challenges in the system and embedding timely financial reporting and audit.

As detailed in our Audit Results Report presented to the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 4 February 2025, we disclaimed our audit opinion on the Group, PCC and CC's 2023/24 financial statements.

We have obtained assurance over some of the closing balances in 2023/24. However, we do not have assurance over all brought-forward balances in 2024/25. Consequently, we lack assurance over all in-year movements and some closing balances for 2024/25. Although we will continue to work towards rebuilding assurance ahead of the 2024/25 backstop date (subject to guidance), we will not be able to obtain sufficient evidence to have reasonable assurance over all closing balances. We therefore expect to again issue a disclaimer of opinion in 2024/25.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

Rebuild of assurance – current position

The National Audit Office issued Local Audit Reset and Recovery Implementation Guidance (LARRIG) 05 on 10 September 2024, detailing the principle of returning to a state where auditors can issue audit opinions on local authority financial statements with sufficient audit evidence. This process will take several years to achieve.

Restoring assurance will need local authorities and auditors to work together. We are waiting for guidance from the National Audit Office and Financial Reporting Council to ensure a consistent approach for restoring assurance for disclaimed periods. Until then, we are unable to commence the rebuilding work programme.

We will audit the 2024/25 closing balance sheet and in-year transactions, similar to our approach for 2023/24, as well as performing additional risk assessment procedures to assess the likelihood of a material misstatement in the opening reserve position for 2024/25. Updates on rebuilding assurance for the historical position will be provided as guidance is issued and its implications for the PCC and CC are evaluated taking into consideration the outcome of our risk assessment procedures. As the PCC and CC's financial statements for 2022/23 and 2023/24 were subject to a disclaimer of opinion, it is highly probable that our risk assessment procedures to assess the likelihood of a material misstatement in the opening reserve position will conclude that an elevated risk of material misstatement is associated with the reserve balances, because of the way in which they accumulate over successive years.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance

The PCC and CC's Chief Finance Officers are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with proper practices and confirming they give a true and fair view at the 31 March 2025. To complete the audit in a timely and efficient manner, it is essential that the financial statements are supported by high-quality working papers and audit evidence, and that PCC and CC resources are available to support the audit process within agreed deadlines. The PCC and CC have an essential role in ensuring that it has assurance over both the quality of the financial statements and the entity's wider arrangements to support the delivery of a timely and efficient audit. Where these conditions are not met, we will:

- Consider and report on the adequacy of the PCC and CC's external financial reporting arrangements as part of our assessment of Value for Money arrangements.
- Consider the use of other statutory reporting powers to draw attention to weaknesses in PCC and CC financial reporting arrangements, where deemed necessary.
- Assess the impact on available audit resource and where additional resources are deployed, seek a fee variation from PSAA. We have set out the factors that will lead to a fee variation at Appendix B, together with, at Appendix A, paragraphs 26-28 of PSAA's Statement of Responsibilities which clearly set out what is expected of audited bodies in preparing their financial statements.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

The following 'dashboard' summarises the significant accounting and auditing matters outlined in this report. It seeks to provide those charged with governance with an overview of our initial risk identification for the upcoming audit and any changes in risks identified in the current year.

Audit risks and areas of focus

Risk/area of focus	Risk identified	Change from PY	Details
Presumptive risk of management override of controls	Fraud risk	No change in risk or focus	<p>There is a risk that the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or error. We perform mandatory procedures regardless of specifically identified fraud risks.</p>
Inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure	Fraud risk	No change in risk or focus	<p>Under ISA 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper revenue recognition. In the public sector, this requirement is modified by Practice Note 10 issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition.</p> <p>We have assessed the risk is most likely to occur through the inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure.</p>
Valuation of land and buildings	Significant risk	Increase in risk	<p>The valuation of property, plant and equipment, represent significant balances in the Group and PCC's accounts at £65.252 million for year ended 31 March 2024. The land and building assets which form the main part of this balance are subject to valuation changes, impairment reviews and depreciated charges. Management is required to make material judgemental inputs and apply estimation techniques to calculate the year-end land and building balances recorded in the balance sheet.</p> <p>ISAs (UK and Ireland) 500 and 540 require us to undertake procedures on the use of management experts and the assumptions underlying fair value estimates.</p> <p>Management have engaged a new valuer for 2024/25 and as a result we have increased the risk related to the valuation of these assets.</p>

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

The following 'dashboard' summarises the significant accounting and auditing matters outlined in this report. It seeks to provide those charged with governance with an overview of our initial risk identification for the upcoming audit and any changes in risks identified in the current year.

Audit risks and areas of focus

Risk/area of focus	Risk identified	Change from PY	Details
Pension liability valuation	Inherent risk	No change in risk or focus	<p>The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the PCC and CC to disclose its membership in the Local Government Pension Scheme and Police Pension Scheme in its financial statements.</p> <p>Due to the significant estimation and judgement involved, an actuary is engaged for calculations. ISAs (UK) 500 and 540 mandate procedures on using management experts and assumptions for fair value estimates.</p>
Accounting for Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Inherent risk	No change in risk or focus	<p>The PCC and CC disclose one PFI contract within their financial statements for the use of six Police Investigation Centres shared with the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk. The liability and payments for services are dependent upon assumptions within the accounting models underpinning the PIF scheme.</p> <p>As such, management is required to apply estimation techniques to support the disclosures within the financial statements.</p>
Accounting for data breach issue	Inherent risk	No change in risk or focus	<p>While the 2021/22 audit was in progress, management reported two incidents of data breaches that were discovered within the financial year 2022/23. The ICO's investigation has yet to be concluded and therefore it is currently unknown whether any financial penalty will be incurred and require inclusion in the accounts.</p> <p>Until this matter is concluded the potential non-compliance with laws and regulations (NOCLAR) remains open.</p>

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

The following 'dashboard' summarises the significant accounting and auditing matters outlined in this report. It seeks to provide those charged with governance with an overview of our initial risk identification for the upcoming audit and any changes in risks identified in the current year.

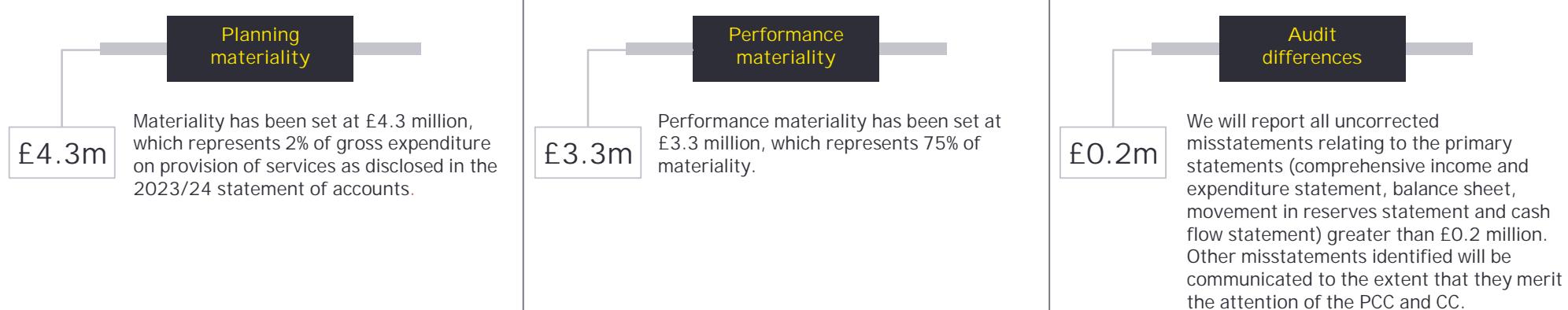
Audit risks and areas of focus

Risk/area of focus	Risk identified	Change from PY	Details
IFRS 16 implementation	Inherent risk	Increase in risk	<p>IFRS 16 Leases is applicable in local government for periods beginning 1 April 2024. It has been adopted, interpreted and adapted in the 2024/25 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which sets out the financial reporting framework for the PCC and CC's 2024/25 accounts.</p> <p>In addition, the PCC and CC will need to transition to IFRS 16 for its PFI scheme from 1 April 2024 and will need to include full disclosure in the 2024/25 financial statements.</p> <p>The PCC performed an initial impact assessment in 2023/24 and expect to recognise right of use assets of £2 million.</p>

We will continue to keep the PCC and CC updated on our assessment of any changes to audit risk.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

Group materiality



We will keep the PCC and CC updated on any changes to materiality levels as the audit progresses.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

PCC materiality

Planning materiality

£2.2m

Materiality has been set at £2.2 million, which represents 2% of total assets as disclosed in the 2023/24 statement of accounts.

Performance materiality

£1.7m

Performance materiality has been set at £1.7 million, which represents 75% of materiality.

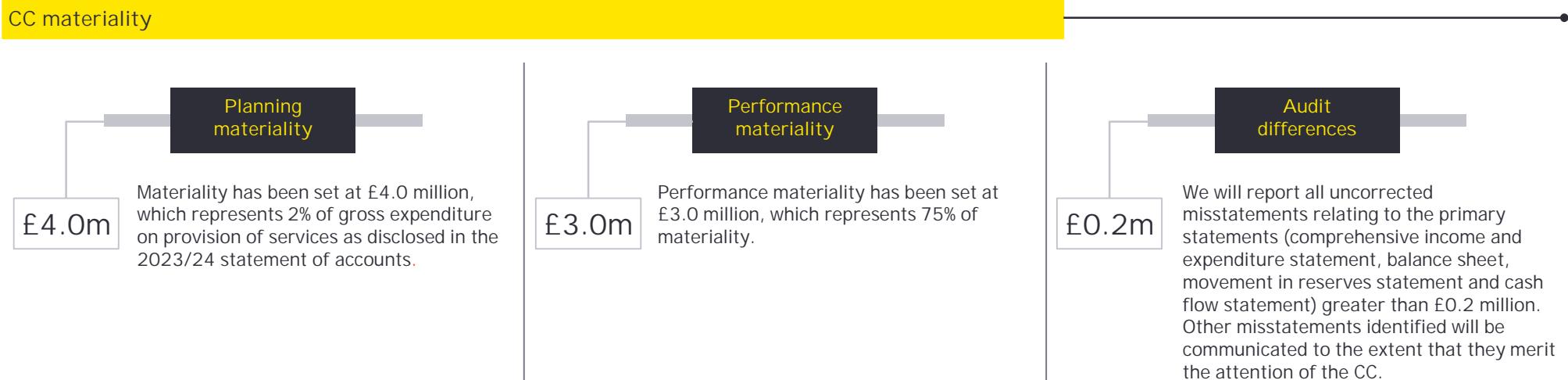
Audit differences

£0.1m

We will report all uncorrected misstatements relating to the primary statements (comprehensive income and expenditure statement, balance sheet, movement in reserves statement and cash flow statement) greater than £0.1 million. Other misstatements identified will be communicated to the extent that they merit the attention of the PCC.

We will keep the PCC updated on any changes to materiality levels as the audit progresses.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)



We will keep the CC updated on any changes to materiality levels as the audit progresses.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

Audit scope

This Audit Plan covers the work that we plan to perform to provide you with:

- our audit opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 2025 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- our commentary on your arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources for the relevant period. We include further details on the value for money arrangements in Section 3.

We also review and report to the National Audit Office (NAO), to the extent and in the form required by them, on the PCC and CC's Whole of Government Accounts return.

Our audit will also include the required mandatory procedures in accordance with applicable laws and auditing standards.

When planning the audit we consider several key inputs:

- strategic, operational and financial risks relevant to the financial statements;
- developments in financial reporting and auditing standards;
- the quality of systems and processes;
- changes in the business and regulatory environment; and
- management's views on all the above.

By considering these inputs, our audit is focused on the areas that matter, and our feedback is more likely to be relevant.

Considering the above, our professional duties require us to independently assess audit risks and take appropriate actions. The Terms of Appointment with the PSAA permit fee adjustments based on 'the auditor's assessment of risk and the work needed to meet their professional responsibilities'. Therefore, we outline these risks in this Audit Planning Report and will discuss any impact on the proposed scale fee with management.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

Audit scope (cont'd)

Effects of climate-related matters on financial statements

Public interest in climate change is growing. We recognize that climate-related risks may span a long timeframe, and while these risks exist, their impact on the current financial statements may not be immediately significant. However, it remains essential to understand these risks to conduct a proper evaluation.

Additionally, comprehending climate-related risks may be pertinent in the context of qualitative disclosures in the notes to the financial statements and in assessing value-for-money arrangements.

We inquire about climate-related risks during every audit as part of our understanding of the entity and its environment. As we continually re-evaluate our risk assessments throughout the audit, we consider the information obtained to help us assess the level of inherent risk.

Audit scope and approach

We plan to adopt a substantive audit approach.

2024/25 audit strategy overview (cont'd)

Value for Money

We are required to consider whether the PCC and CC have made 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources.

The value for money planning and related risk assessment aims to collect enough evidence to document our evaluation of the PCC and CC's arrangements, allowing us to prepare a commentary based on three reporting criteria. This process includes identifying and reporting any significant weaknesses in those arrangements and making suitable recommendations.

We will provide a commentary on the PCC and CC's arrangements against three reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability – How the PCC and CC plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.
- Governance – How the PCC and CC ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness – How the PCC and CC uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

Commentary on value for money arrangements will be included in the 2024/25 Auditor's Annual Report. This will need to be issued by 30 November 2025 to comply with the revised requirements of the NAO Code.

Timeline

An audit timetable has been agreed with management. In Section 07 we include a provisional timeline for the audit. It is essential that all parties collaborate to ensure compliance with this timeline.



02 Audit risks

Our response to significant risks

We have set out the significant risks (including fraud risks denoted by*) identified for the current year audit along with the rationale and expected audit approach. The risks identified below may change to reflect any significant findings or subsequent issues we identify during the audit.



What is the risk?

The financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

As identified in ISA (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.

We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.

What will we do?

- Identify fraud risks during the planning stages.
- Inquire of management about risks of fraud and the controls put in place to address those risks.
- Understand the oversight given by those charged with governance of management's processes over fraud.
- Discuss with those charged with governance the risks of fraud in the entity, including those risks that are specific to the entity's business sector (those that may arise from economic industry and operating conditions).
- Consider whether there are any fraud risk factors associated with related party relationships and transactions and if so, whether they give rise to a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Consider the effectiveness of management's controls designed to address the risk of fraud.
- Determine an appropriate strategy to address those identified risks of fraud.

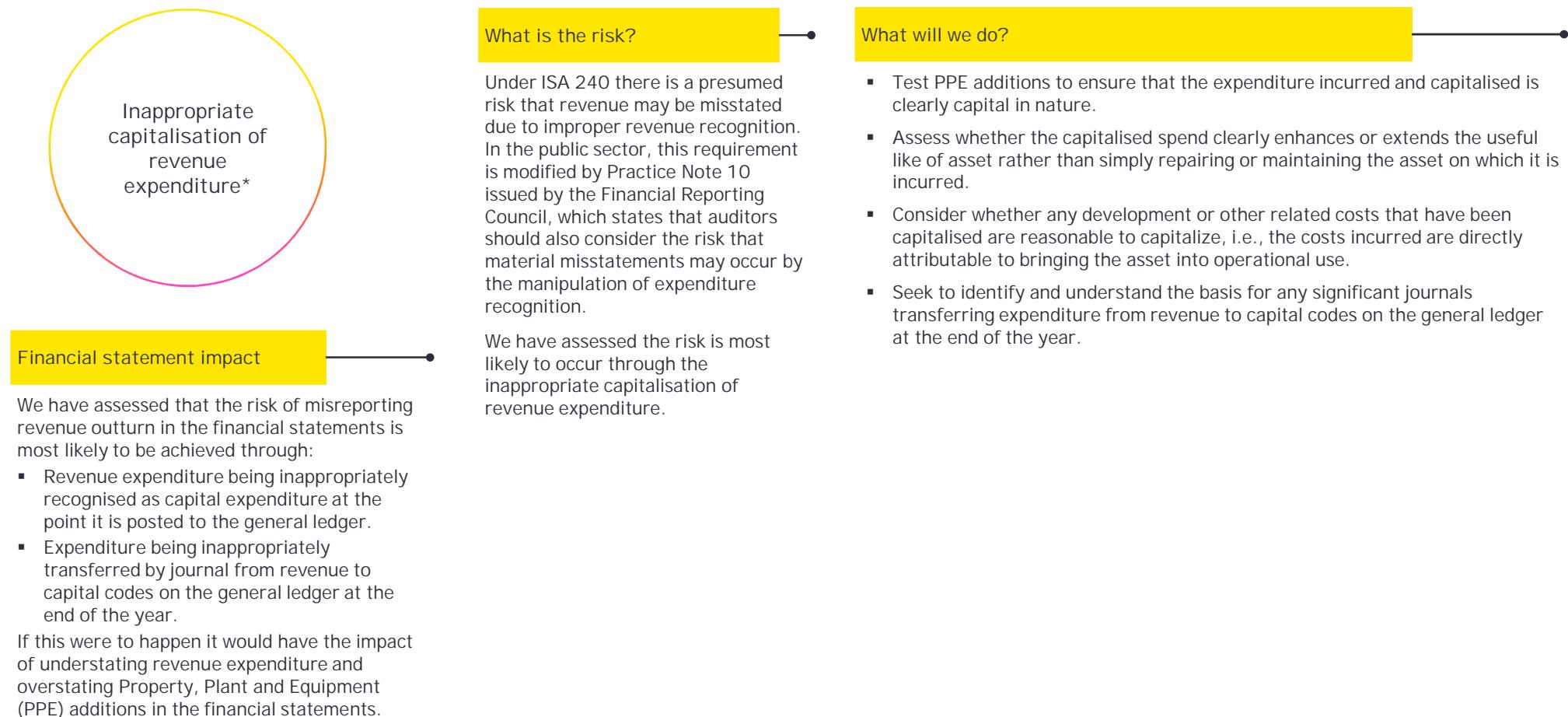
Performing mandatory procedures regardless of specifically identified fraud risks, including:

- testing of journal entries and other adjustments in the preparation of the financial statements.
- undertaking procedures to identify significant unusual transactions.
- considering whether management bias was present in the key accounting estimates and judgments in the financial statements.

Having evaluated this risk we have considered whether we need to perform other audit procedures not referred to above. We concluded that those procedures included under 'Inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure' are required.

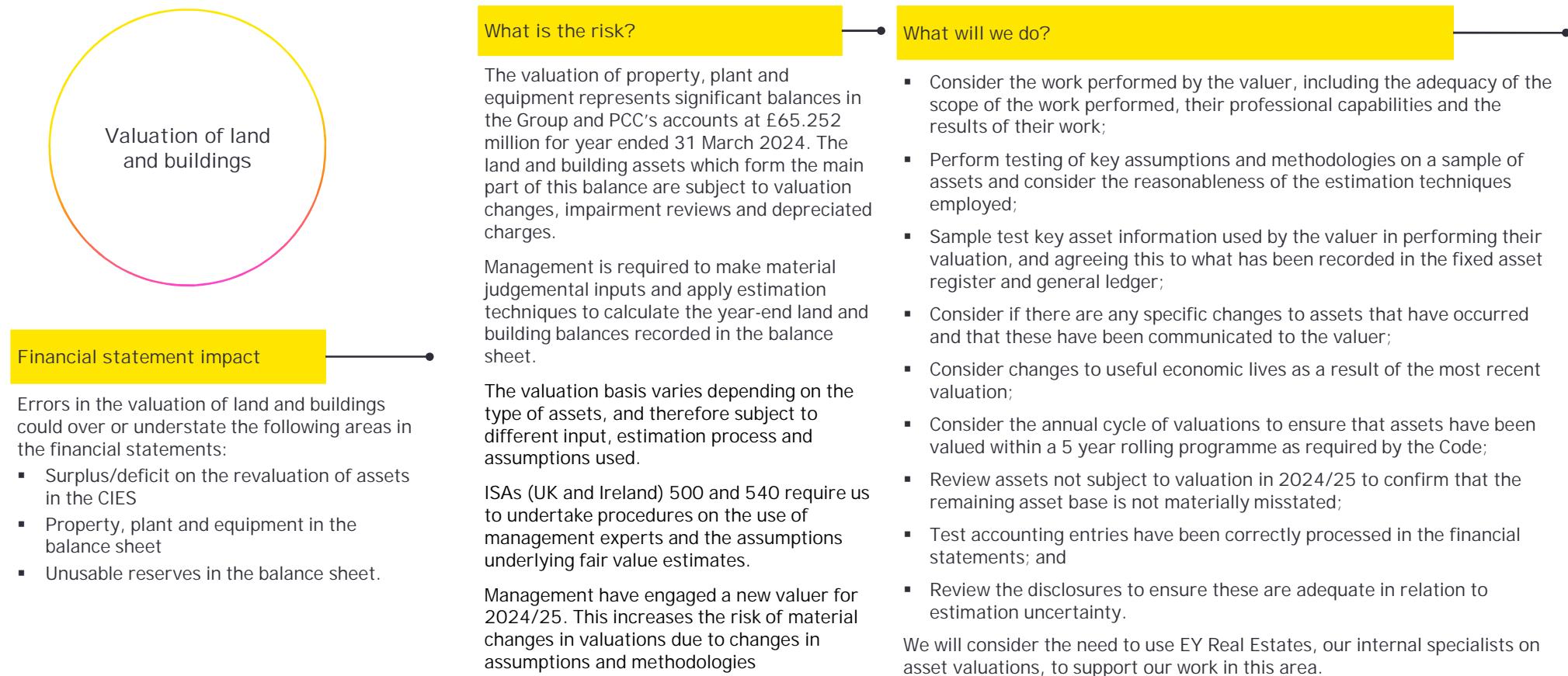
Our response to significant risks (cont'd)

We have set out the significant risks (including fraud risks denoted by*) identified for the current year audit along with the rationale and expected audit approach. The risks identified below may change to reflect any significant findings or subsequent issues we identify during the audit.



Our response to significant risks (cont'd)

We have set out the significant risks (including fraud risks denoted by*) identified for the current year audit along with the rationale and expected audit approach. The risks identified below may change to reflect any significant findings or subsequent issues we identify during the audit.



Other areas of audit focus

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risks but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

What is the risk/area of focus, and the key judgements and estimates?

Pension liability valuation

The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 requires the PCC and CC to make extensive disclosures within their financial statements regarding its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Suffolk County Council and the Police Pension Scheme.

The PCC and CC's pension fund deficit is a material estimated balance, and the Code requires that this asset/liability be disclosed on the PCC and CC's balance sheet. At 31 March 2024 these totalled:

- PCC £1.5 million asset
- CC £1,116.2 million liability

The information disclosed is based on the IAS 19 reports issued to the PCC and CC by the actuaries to Suffolk Pension Fund and the Police Pension Scheme.

Accounting for these schemes involves significant estimation and judgement and therefore management engages actuaries to undertake the calculations on their behalf. ISAs (UK) 500 and 540 require us to undertake procedures on the use of management experts and the assumptions underlying fair value estimates.

Our response: Key areas of challenge and professional judgement

We will:

- Liaise with the auditors of Suffolk Pension Fund, to obtain assurances over the information supplied to the actuary in relation to the PCC and CC;
- Assess the work of the LGPS pension fund actuary and the Police Pension actuary including the assumptions they have used by relying on the work of PWC - Consulting Actuaries commissioned by the National Audit Office for all local government sector auditors, and considering any relevant reviews by the EY actuarial team;
- Evaluate the reasonableness of the Pension Fund actuary's calculations by comparing them to the outputs of our own auditor's specialist's model;
- Ensure any asset ceiling adjustment made in 2024/25 in relation to the LGPS is appropriate and have been correctly accounted for; and
- Review and test the accounting entries and disclosures made within the PCC and CC's financial statements in relation to IAS19.

What else will we do?

We will consider outturn information available at the time we undertake our work after production of the PCC and CC's draft financial statements, for example the year-end actual valuation of pension fund assets. We will use this to inform our assessment of the accuracy of estimated information included in the financial statements and whether any adjustments are required.

Other areas of audit focus

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risk, but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

What is the risk/area of focus, and the key judgements and estimates?

Accounting for Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The PCC and CC disclose one PFI contract within their financial statements for the use of six Police Investigation Centres shared with the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk. At 31 March 2024, the PCC's share of the PFI liability was £19 million (PY was £19.6 million).

The liability and payments for services are dependent upon assumptions within the accounting models underpinning the PFI scheme. As such management is required to apply estimation techniques to support the disclosures within the financial statements.

Our response: Key areas of challenge and professional judgement

We will:

- ▶ Enquire whether there have been any significant changes within the model since our review;
- ▶ Undertake a review and assessing the impact of any changes in assumptions upon the model; and
- ▶ Agree the models to the disclosures within the financial statements.

What else will we do?

We will consider the need to use EY FAAS, our internal specialists on PFI valuations, to support our work in this area. Based on procedures performed at the planning stage we do not expect to engage EY FAAS.

Other areas of audit focus

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risks but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

What is the risk/area of focus, and the key judgements and estimates?

Accounting for data breach issue

While the 2021/22 audit was in progress, management reported two incidents of data breaches that were discovered within the financial year 2022/23.

We assessed the financial impact of the data breach issues in previous years financial statements, against IAS37, *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*, to assess the completeness and accuracy of the financial liability and disclosures.

The ICO's investigation has yet to be concluded and therefore it is currently unknown whether any financial penalty will be incurred and require inclusion in the accounts.

Until this matter is concluded the potential non-compliance with laws and regulations (NOCLAR) remains open. Therefore, the risk remains in that accounting for the data breach issue may not align with the accounting standards and the CIPFA Code requirements.

Our response: Key areas of challenge and professional judgement

We will:

- ▶ Review management's assessment of any associated accounting requirements in relation to the data breach issue; and
- ▶ Review the disclosures in the financial statements for completeness and compliance with the relevant accounting standards, ensuring that all required information is disclosed.

What else will we do?

We will review the ICO report, once issued, to consider whether there are any other implications or actions required.

Other areas of audit focus (cont'd)

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risks but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

What is the risk/area of focus, and the key judgements and estimates?

IFRS 16 implementation

IFRS 16 Leases is applicable in local government for periods beginning 1 April 2024. It has been adopted, interpreted and adapted in the 2024/25 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which sets out the financial reporting framework for the PCC and CC's 2024/25 accounts.

IFRS 16 eliminates the operating/finance lease distinction for leases and imposes a single model geared towards the recognition of all but low-value or short-term leases. Where the PCC is lessee these will now be recognised on the Balance Sheet as a 'right of use' asset and lease liability reflecting the obligation to make lease payments.

Successful transition will depend on the PCC having captured additional information about leases, both new and existing, especially regarding future minimum lease payments. The PCC will also have had to develop systems for capturing cost information that are fit for purpose, can respond to changes in lease terms and the presence of any variable (e.g., RPI-based) lease terms where forecasts will need to be updated annually based on prevailing indices.

The PCC performed an initial impact assessment in 2023/24 and expect to recognise a right of use asset of £2 million.

Our response: Key areas of challenge and professional judgement

We will:

- Gain an understanding of the processes and controls developed by the PCC relevant to the implementation of IFRS 16. We will pay particular attention to the PCC's arrangements to ensure lease and lease-type arrangements considered are complete.
- Review the discount rate that is used to calculate the right of use asset and assess its reasonableness.
- Review management policies, including whether to use a portfolio approach, low value threshold, and asset classes where management is adopting as the practical expedient to non-lease components.
- Gain assurance over the right of use asset included in the 2024/25 financial statements.
- Gain assurance over the PFI liability included in the 2024/25 financial statements.
- Sample test leases to ensure that transition arrangements have been correctly applied.
- Consider the accounting for leases provided at below market rate, including peppercorn and nil consideration, and the need to make adjustments to cost in the valuation of right of use assets at the balance sheet date.

What else will we do?

We will obtain and inspect the lease agreements to verify their existence and ensure they are fully signed with authorised signatures.



03

Value for Money risks

Value for Money

PCC and CC's responsibilities for value for money

The PCC and CC are required to maintain an effective system of internal control that supports the achievement of their policies, aims and objectives while safeguarding and securing value for money from the public funds and other resources at their disposal.

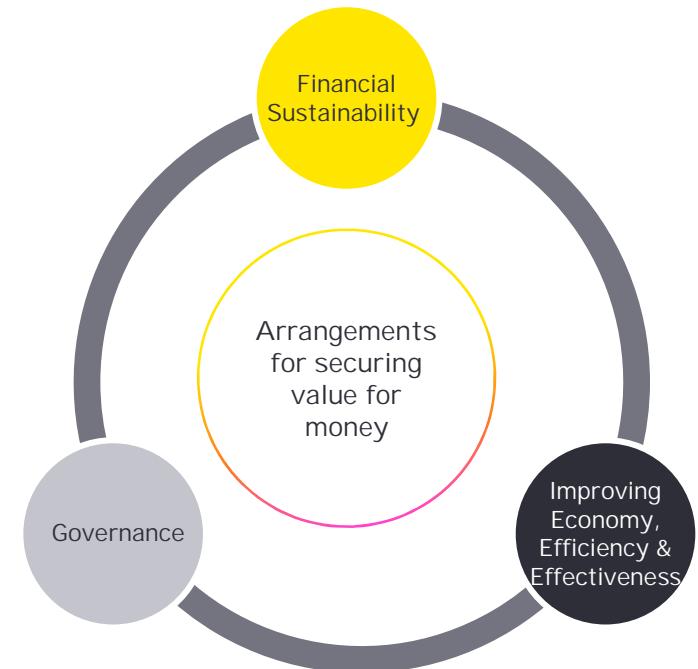
As part of the material published with the financial statements, the PCC and CC are required to bring together commentary on the governance framework and how this has operated during the period in a governance statement. In preparing the governance statement, the PCC and CC tailor the content to reflect their own individual circumstances, consistent with the requirements of the relevant accounting and reporting framework and having regard to any guidance issued in support of that framework. This includes a requirement to provide commentary on arrangements for securing value for money from the use of resources.

Auditor responsibilities

Under the NAO Code we are required to consider whether the PCC and CC has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources. The Code requires the auditor to design their work to provide them with sufficient assurance to enable them to report to the PCC and CC a commentary against specified reporting criteria (see below) on the arrangements the PCC and CC has in place to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the relevant period.

The specified reporting criteria are:

- Financial sustainability - How the PCC and CC plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.
- Governance - How the PCC and CC ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness - How the PCC and CC uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.



Value for Money (cont'd)

Planning and identifying risks of significant weakness in VFM arrangements

The NAO's guidance notes require us to conduct a risk assessment that collects sufficient evidence to document our evaluation of the PCC and CC's arrangements, allowing us to draft a commentary under the three reporting criteria. This involves identifying and reporting on any significant weaknesses in those arrangements and making appropriate recommendations. In considering the PCC and CC's arrangements, we consider:

- The governance statement;
- Evidence of arrangements during the reporting period;
- Evidence obtained from our audit of the financial statements;
- The work of inspectorates and other bodies; and
- Any other evidence that we deem as necessary to facilitate the performance of our statutory duties.

We then evaluate whether there is evidence indicating significant weaknesses in arrangements. According to the NAO's guidance, determining what constitutes a significant weakness and the extent of additional audit work required to address the risk is based on professional judgment. The NAO indicates that a weakness can be considered significant if it:

- Exposes, or could reasonably be expected to expose, the PCC or CC to significant financial loss or risk;
- Leads to, or could reasonably be expected to lead to, significant impact on the quality or effectiveness of service or on the PCC or CC's reputation or unlawful actions;
- Identifies a failure to take action to address a previously identified significant weakness, such as failure to implement or achieve planned progress on action/improvement plans.

Responding to identified risks of significant weakness

When planning work identifies a risk of significant weakness, the NAO's guidance requires us to consider the additional evidence needed to verify whether there is a significant weakness in arrangements. This involves conducting further procedures as necessary. We are required to report our planned procedures to the PCC and CC.

Value for Money (cont'd)

Reporting on VFM

If we determine that the PCC and CC has not made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in their use of resources, the NAO Code mandates that we reference this by exception in the audit report on the financial statements.

Additionally, we are required to provide a commentary on the value for money arrangements in the Auditor's Annual Report. The NAO Code specifies that this commentary should be clear, readily understandable, and highlight any issues we wish to draw to the PCC and CC's or the wider public's attention. This may include matters that are not considered significant weaknesses in arrangements but should still be brought to the PCC and CC's awareness. It will also cover details of any recommendations from the audit and the follow-up of previously issued recommendations, along with our assessment of their satisfactory implementation. Our 2024/25 Auditor's Annual Report is required to be issued by 30 November 2025 to comply with the revised requirements of the NAO Code.

Status of our 2024/25 VFM planning

We have yet to complete our detailed value for money planning. However, one area of focus will be on the PCC and CC's financial sustainability arrangements. We will update the PCC and CC on the outcome of our value for money planning and our planned response to any additional identified risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements.



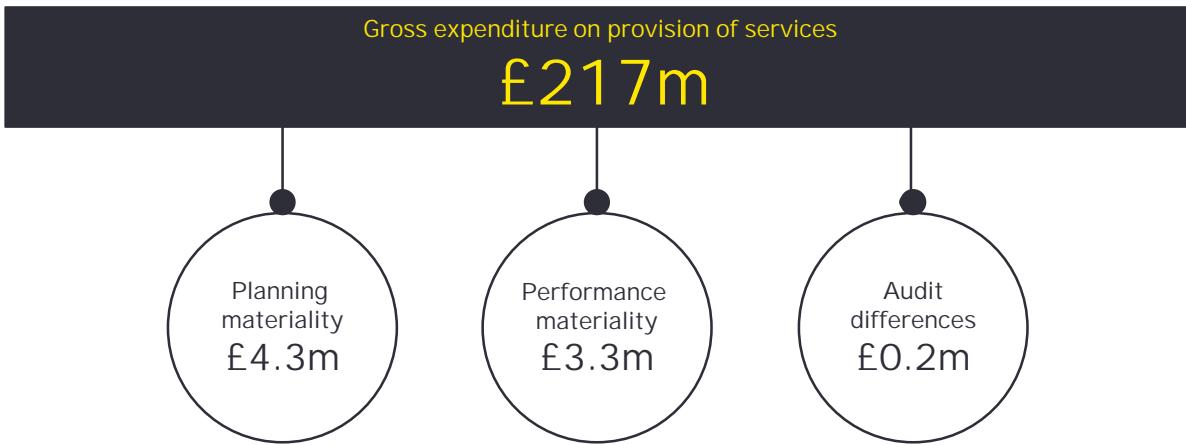
04

Audit materiality

Materiality

Group materiality

For planning purposes, Group materiality for 2024/25 has been set at £4.3 million. This represents 2% of the Group's gross expenditure on provision of services as disclosed in the 2023/24 statement of accounts. It will be reassessed on receipt of the draft 2024/24 accounts and throughout the audit process. The rationale for this is that for a public sector entity, the expectations of users (including regulators) of the entity are focussed on the provision of services and therefore the measurement of expenditure related to these services is appropriate.



Key definitions

Planning materiality – the amount over which we anticipate misstatements would influence the economic decisions of a user of the financial statements.

Performance materiality – the amount we use to determine the extent of our audit procedures. We have set performance materiality at 75% of planning materiality. We set performance materiality at this level to reflect the low level of identified misstatements in the previous year, having determined that there is similar likelihood of errors being identified in the current year.

Audit difference threshold – we propose that misstatements identified below this threshold are deemed clearly trivial. We will report to you all uncorrected misstatements over this amount relating to the income statement and balance sheet that have an effect on income or that relate to other comprehensive income.

Other uncorrected misstatements, such as reclassifications and misstatements in the cashflow statement or disclosures and corrected misstatements will be communicated to the extent that they merit the attention of the PCC and CC or are important from a qualitative perspective.

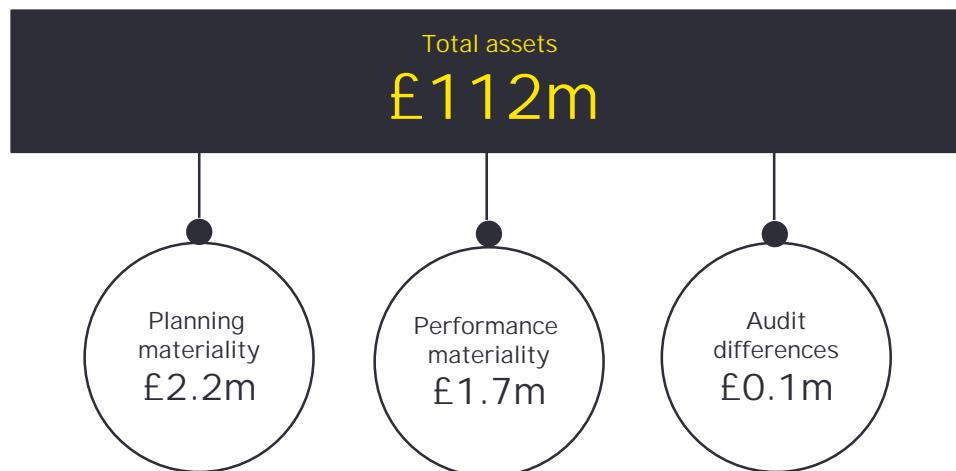
We will keep the PCC and CC updated on any changes to materiality levels as the audit progresses.

We request that the PCC and CC confirm their understanding of, and agreement to, these materiality and reporting levels.

Materiality (cont'd)

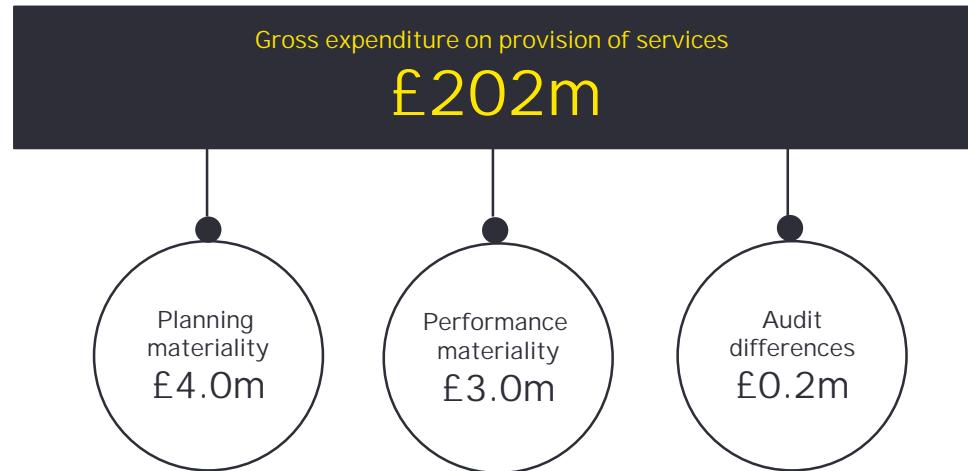
PCC materiality

For planning purposes, PCC materiality for 2024/25 has been set at £2.2 million. This represents 2% of the PCC's total assets as disclosed in the 2023/24 statement of accounts. It will be reassessed on receipt of the draft 2024/24 accounts throughout the audit process. The rationale for this is that the PCC is responsible for making strategic decisions on the future of policing in the area which involves how to make best use of their assets.



CC materiality

For planning purposes, CC materiality for 2024/25 has been set at £4.0 million. This represents 2% of the CC's gross expenditure on provision of services as disclosed in the 2023/24 statement of accounts. It will be reassessed on receipt of the draft 2024/24 accounts throughout the audit process. The rationale for this is that for a public sector entity, the expectations of users (including regulators) of the entity are focussed on the provision of services and therefore the measurement of expenditure related to these services is appropriate.



We will keep the PCC and CC updated on any changes to materiality levels as the audit progresses.

We request that the PCC and CC confirm their understanding of, and agreement to, these materiality and reporting levels.



05

Scope of our audit

Audit process and strategy

Objective and scope of our audit

In accordance with the NAO Code, our primary objectives are to conduct work that supports the delivery of our audit report to the PCC and CC. Additionally, we aim to ensure that the PCC and CC have established proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in their use of resources, as mandated by relevant legislation and the requirements of the NAO Code.

We issue an audit report that covers:

1. Financial statement audit

Our opinion on the financial statements:

- Whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and its expenditure and income for the period in question; and
- Whether the financial statements have been prepared properly in accordance with the relevant accounting and reporting framework as set out in legislation, applicable accounting standards or other direction.

Our opinion on other matters:

- whether other information published together with the audited financial statements is consistent with the financial statements.

Other procedures required by the Code:

- Examine and report on the consistency of the Whole of Government Accounts schedules or returns with the body's audited financial statements for the relevant reporting period in line with the instructions issued by the National Audit Office.

2. Arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money)

We are required to consider whether the PCC and CC have put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on their use of resources and report a commentary on those arrangements.

Audit process and strategy (cont'd)

Audit process overview

Our audit involves:

- Identifying and understanding the key processes and internal controls;
- Substantive tests of detail of transactions and amounts;
- Reliance on the work of other auditors where appropriate; and
- Reliance on the work of experts in relation to areas, such as pensions and property valuations.

Our initial assessment of the key processes across the PCC and CC has not identified any processes where we will seek to test key controls, either manual or IT. Our audit strategy will, as in previous years, follow a fully substantive approach. This will involve testing the figures within the financial statements rather than looking to place reliance on the controls within the financial systems. We assess this as the most efficient way of carrying out our work and obtaining the level of audit assurance required to conclude that the financial statements are not materially misstated.

Analytics

We will use a data driven approach to enable us to capture whole populations of your financial data, in particular journal entries. These tools:

- Help identify specific exceptions and anomalies which can then be subject to more traditional substantive audit tests; and
- Give greater likelihood of identifying errors than random sampling techniques.

Internal audit

We will review internal audit plans and the results of their work. We will reflect the findings from these reports, together with reports from any other work completed in the year, in our detailed audit plan, where they raise issues that could have an impact on the financial statements.



06 Audit team

Audit team

Debbie Hanson*
Audit partner

Alison Riglar
Manager

Nichola Vella
Lead Senior

Specialist Valuation
(EY Real Estates)
(if required)

Specialist Pensions
(PWC consulting actuary
and EY Actuaries)

* Key Audit Partner

Use of specialists

Our approach to the involvement of specialists, and the use of their work

When auditing key judgements, we are often required to use the input and advice provided by specialists who have qualifications and expertise not possessed by the core audit team. The areas where specialists are expected to provide input for the current year audit are:

Area	Specialists
Valuation of Land and Buildings	Management Specialist – Newmark, the PCC's external valuer EY Real Estates
Pensions disclosure	Management Specialist – Hymans Robertson, the actuary to the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund, and the Government Actuary's Department (GAD), the actuary to the Police Pension Scheme EY Actuaries, PwC (Consulting Actuary commissioned by NAO)

In accordance with Auditing Standards, we will evaluate each specialist's professional competence and objectivity, considering their qualifications, experience and available resources, together with the independence of the individuals performing the work.

We also consider the work performed by the specialist in light of our knowledge of the PCC and CC's business and processes and our assessment of audit risk in the particular area. For example, we would typically perform the following procedures:

- Analyse source data and make inquiries as to the procedures used by the specialist to establish whether the source data is relevant and reliable
- Assess the reasonableness of the assumptions and methods used
- Consider the appropriateness of the timing of when the specialist carried out the work
- Assess whether the substance of the specialist's findings are properly reflected in the financial statements



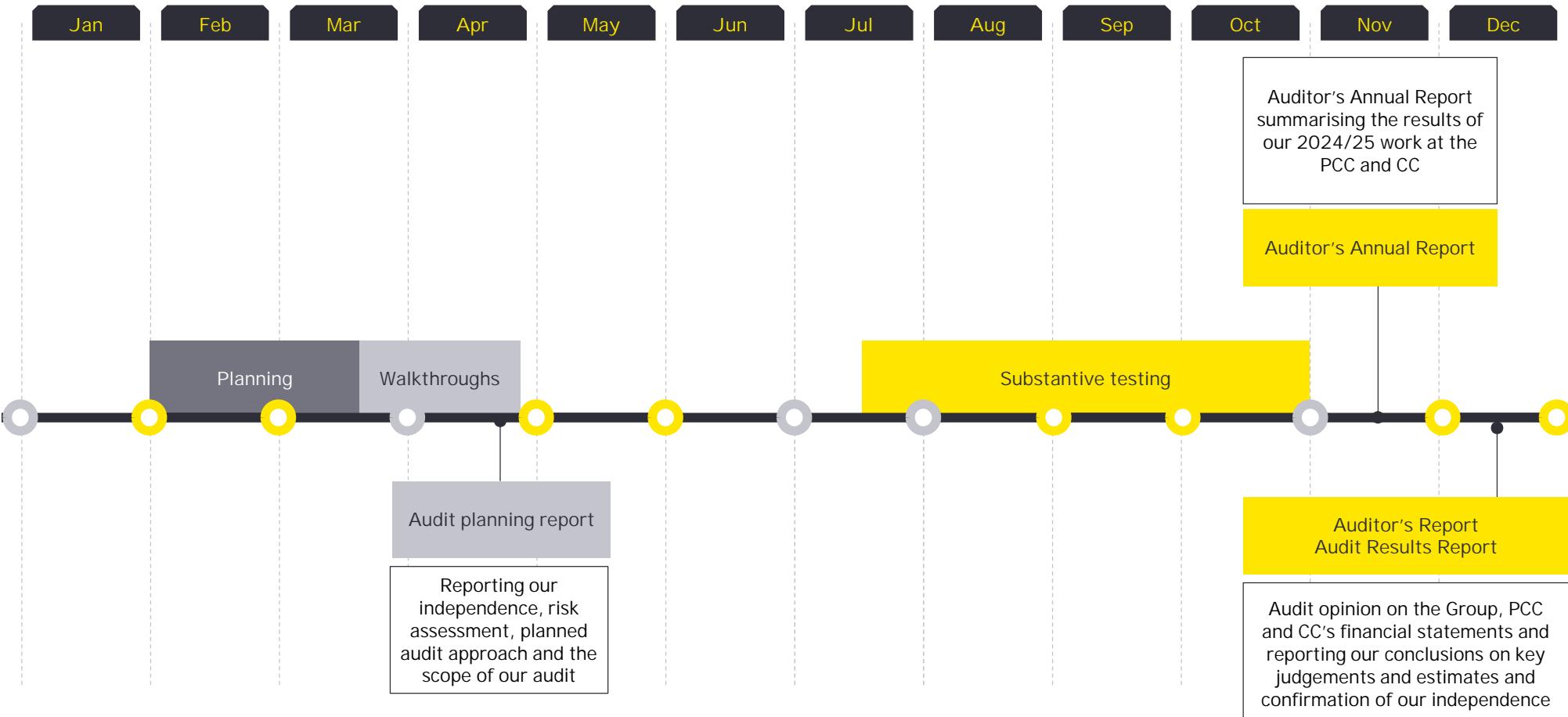
07

Audit timeline

Timetable of communication and deliverables

Timeline

Below is a timetable showing the key stages of the audit and the deliverables we have agreed to provide to you through the 2024/25 audit cycle. From time to time matters may arise that require immediate communication with the PCC and CC and we will discuss them with the PCC and CC as appropriate.





08

Independence

Introduction

The FRC Ethical Standard 2019 and ISA (UK) 260 'Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance', requires us to communicate with you on a timely basis on all significant facts and matters that bear upon our integrity, objectivity and independence. The Ethical Standard, as revised in December 2019, requires that we communicate formally both at the planning stage and at the conclusion of the audit, as well as during the course of the audit if appropriate. The aim of these communications is to ensure full and fair disclosure by us to those charged with your governance on matters in which you have an interest.

Required communications	
Planning stage	Final stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The principal threats, if any, to objectivity and independence identified by Ernst & Young (EY) including consideration of all relationships between you, your affiliates and directors and us;▪ The safeguards adopted and the reasons why they are considered to be effective, including any Engagement Quality review;▪ The overall assessment of threats and safeguards; and▪ Information about the general policies and process within EY to maintain objectivity and independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In order for you to assess the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm and each covered person, we are required to provide a written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that may bear on our integrity, objectivity and independence. This is required to have regard to relationships with the entity, its directors and senior management, its affiliates, and its connected parties and the threats to integrity or objectivity, including those that could compromise independence that these create. We are also required to disclose any safeguards that we have put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable our objectivity and independence to be assessed;▪ Details of non-audit/additional services provided and the fees charged in relation thereto;▪ Written confirmation that the firm and each covered person is independent and, if applicable, that any non-EY firms used in the group audit or external experts used have confirmed their independence to us;▪ Details of any non-audit/additional services to a UK PIE audit client where there are differences of professional opinion concerning the engagement between the Ethics Partner and Engagement Partner and where the final conclusion differs from the professional opinion of the Ethics Partner;▪ Details of any inconsistencies between FRC Ethical Standard and your policy for the supply of non-audit services by EY and any apparent breach of that policy;▪ Details of all breaches of the IESBA Code of Ethics, the FRC Ethical Standard and professional standards, and of any safeguards applied and actions taken by EY to address any threats to independence; and▪ An opportunity to discuss auditor independence issues.

In addition, during the course of the audit, we are required to communicate with you whenever any significant judgements are made about threats to objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of safeguards put in place, for example, when accepting an engagement to provide non-audit services.

We ensure that the total amount of fees that EY and our network firms have charged to you and your affiliates for the provision of services during the reporting period, analysed in appropriate categories, are disclosed.

Relationships, services and related threats and safeguards

We highlight the following significant facts and matters that may be reasonably considered to bear upon our objectivity and independence, including the principal threats, if any. We have adopted the safeguards noted below to mitigate these threats along with the reasons why they are considered to be effective. However we will only perform non-audit services if the service has been pre-approved in accordance with your policy.

Overall assessment

Overall, we consider that the safeguards that have been adopted appropriately mitigate the principal threats identified and we therefore confirm that EY is independent and the objectivity and independence of Debbie Hanson, your audit engagement partner, and the audit engagement team have not been compromised.

Self interest threats

A self interest threat arises when EY has financial or other interests in your company. Examples include where we have an investment in your company; where we receive significant fees in respect of non-audit services; where we need to recover long outstanding fees; or where we enter into a business relationship with you. At the time of writing, there are no long outstanding fees.

We believe that it is appropriate for us to undertake those permitted non-audit/additional services set out in Section 5.40 of the FRC Ethical Standard 2019 (FRC ES), and we will comply with the policies that you have approved.

When the ratio of non-audit fees to audit fees exceeds 1:1, we are required to discuss this with our Ethics Partner, as set out by the FRC ES, and if necessary agree additional safeguards or not accept the non-audit engagement. We will also discuss this with you.

At the time of writing, there is no provision of non-audit services. Therefore, no additional safeguards are required.

A self interest threat may also arise if members of our audit engagement team have objectives or are rewarded in relation to sales of non-audit services to you. We confirm that no member of our audit engagement team, including those from other service lines, has objectives or is rewarded in relation to sales to you, in compliance with Ethical Standard part 4. There are no other self interest threats at the date of this report.

Self review threats

Self review threats arise when the results of a non-audit service performed by EY or others within the EY network are reflected in the amounts included or disclosed in the financial statements.

There are no self review threats at the date of this report.

Management threats

Partners and employees of EY are prohibited from taking decisions on behalf of management of your company. Management threats may also arise during the provision of a non-audit service in relation to which management is required to make judgements or decision based on that work.

There are no management threats at the date of this report.

Other threats

Other threats, such as advocacy, familiarity or intimidation, may arise.

There are no other threats at the date of this report.

Other communications

EY Transparency Report 2024

EY has policies and procedures that instil professional values as part of firm culture and ensure that the highest standards of objectivity, independence and integrity are maintained. Details of the key policies and processes in place within EY for maintaining objectivity and independence can be found in our annual Transparency Report which the firm is required to publish by law. The most recent version of this Report is for the period ended 30 June 2024 and can be found here: [EY UK 2024 Transparency Report](#).



09 Appendices

Appendix A – PSAA Statement of Responsibilities

As set out on the next page our fee is based on the assumption that the PCC and CC complies with PSAA's Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies. See <https://www.psaa.co.uk/managing-audit-quality/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies-from-2023-24-audits/>. In particular the PCC and CC should have regard to paragraphs 26-28 of the Statement of Responsibilities which clearly set out what is expected of audited bodies in preparing their financial statements. We set out these paragraphs in full below:

Preparation of the statement of accounts

26. Audited bodies are expected to follow Good Industry Practice and applicable recommendations and guidance from CIPFA and, as applicable, other relevant organisations as to proper accounting procedures and controls, including in the preparation and review of working papers and financial statements.

27. In preparing their statement of accounts, audited bodies are expected to:

- prepare realistic plans that include clear targets and achievable timetables for the production of the financial statements;
- ensure that finance staff have access to appropriate resources to enable compliance with the requirements of the applicable financial framework, including having access to the current copy of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code, applicable disclosure checklists, and any other relevant CIPFA Codes;
- assign responsibilities clearly to staff with the appropriate expertise and experience;
- provide necessary resources to enable delivery of the plan;
- maintain adequate documentation in support of the financial statements and, at the start of the audit, providing a complete set of working papers that provide an adequate explanation of the entries in those financial statements including the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the judgements and estimates made by management;
- ensure that senior management monitors, supervises and reviews work to meet agreed standards and deadlines;
- ensure that a senior individual at top management level personally reviews and approves the financial statements before presentation to the auditor; and
- during the course of the audit provide responses to auditor queries on a timely basis.

28. If draft financial statements and supporting working papers of appropriate quality are not available at the agreed start date of the audit, the auditor may be unable to meet the planned audit timetable and the start date of the audit will be delayed.

Appendix B – Fees

The duty to prescribe fees is a statutory function delegated to Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

This is defined as the fee required by auditors to meet statutory responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice and supporting guidance published by the National Audit Office, the financial reporting requirements set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting published by CIPFA/LASAAC, and the professional standards applicable to auditors' work.

The agreed fee presented is based on the following assumptions:

- officers meeting the agreed timetable of deliverables;
- our financial statement opinion and value for money conclusion being unqualified;
- appropriate quality of documentation is provided by the PCC and CC;
- an effective control environment; and
- compliance with PSAA's Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies. See <https://www.psaa.co.uk/managing-audit-quality/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies/statement-of-responsibilities-of-auditors-and-audited-bodies-from-2023-24-audits/>. In particular the PCC and CC should have regard to paragraphs 26-28 of the Statement of Responsibilities which clearly sets out what is expected of audited bodies in preparing their financial statements. These are set out in full on the previous page.

If any of the above assumptions prove to be unfounded, we will seek a variation to the agreed fee. This will be discussed with the PCC and CC in advance.

	Current Year 2024/25	Prior Year 2023/24
	£	£
Total Fee – Code Work (scale fee)	150.844	136,464
Proposed scale fee variation	TBD Note 2	30,588 Note 1
Total audit fees	TBD	167,052

All fees exclude VAT

1. As set out in the joint statement on update to proposals to clear the backlog and embed timely audit issued by DHLUC, PSAA will use its fee variation process to determine the final fee the PCC and CC have to pay for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 audits.
2. For 2024/25 the scale fee represents the base fee, i.e., not including any extended testing. The scale fee may be impacted by a range of factors which will result in additional work, which include but are not limited to:
 - Consideration of correspondence from the public and formal objections.
 - New accounting standards, for example full adoption or additional disclosures in respect of IFRS 16.
 - Non-compliance with law and regulation with an impact on the financial statements.
 - VFM risks of, or actual, significant weaknesses in arrangements and related reporting impacts.
 - The need to exercise auditor statutory powers.
 - Prior period adjustments.
 - Modified financial statement opinions.

Appendix C – Required communications with those charged with governance

We have detailed the communications that we must provide to the PCC and CC.

Required communications	What is reported?	Our Reporting to you	When and where
Terms of engagement	Confirmation by those charged with governance of acceptance of terms of engagement as written in the engagement letter signed by both parties.		The statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the PSAA's appointed auditors and audited bodies.
Our responsibilities	Reminder of our responsibilities as set out in the engagement letter		The statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the PSAA's appointed auditors and audited bodies.
Planning and audit approach	Communication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The planned scope and timing of the audit▪ Any limitations on the planned work to be undertaken▪ The planned use of internal audit▪ The significant risks identified When communicating key audit matters this includes the most significant risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) including those that have the greatest effect on the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit and directing the efforts of the engagement team		Audit Plan - April 2025
Significant findings from the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Our view about the significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures▪ Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit▪ Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed with management▪ Written representations that we are seeking▪ Expected modifications to the audit report▪ Other matters if any, significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process		Audit Results Report – December 2025

Appendix C – Required communications with those charged with governance (cont'd)

Required communications	What is reported?	Our Reporting to you When and where
Going concern	<p>Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty ▪ Whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements ▪ The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements 	Audit Results Report – December 2025
Misstatements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uncorrected misstatements and their effect on our audit opinion, unless prohibited by law or regulation ▪ The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods ▪ A request that any uncorrected misstatement be corrected ▪ Material misstatements corrected by management 	Audit Results Report – December 2025
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enquiries of those charged with governance to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity ▪ Any fraud that we have identified or information we have obtained that indicates that a fraud may exist ▪ Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, any identified or suspected fraud involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Management; b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or c. Others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements ▪ The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit when fraud involving management is suspected ▪ Matters, if any, to communicate regarding management's process for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity and our assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud ▪ Any other matters related to fraud, relevant to those charged with governance responsibility 	Audit Results Report – December 2025

Appendix C – Required communications with those charged with governance (cont'd)

Required communications	What is reported?	Our Reporting to you When and where
Related parties	<p>Significant matters arising during the audit in connection with the entity's related parties including, when applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-disclosure by management ▪ Inappropriate authorisation and approval of transactions ▪ Disagreement over disclosures ▪ Non-compliance with laws and regulations ▪ Difficulty in identifying the party that ultimately controls the entity 	Audit Results Report – December 2025
Independence	<p>Communication of all significant facts and matters that bear on EY's, and all individuals involved in the audit, integrity, objectivity and independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication of key elements of the audit engagement partner's consideration of independence and objectivity such as: ▪ The principal threats ▪ Safeguards adopted and their effectiveness ▪ An overall assessment of threats and safeguards ▪ Information about the general policies and process within the firm to maintain objectivity and independence <p>Communication whenever significant judgements are made about threats to integrity, objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of safeguards put in place.</p>	<p>Audit Plan – April 2025</p> <p>Audit Results Report – December 2025</p>
External confirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management's refusal for us to request confirmations ▪ Inability to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from other procedures 	Audit Results Report – December 2025
Consideration of laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subject to compliance with applicable regulations, matters involving identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, other than those which are clearly inconsequential and the implications thereof. Instances of suspected non-compliance may also include those that are brought to our attention that are expected to occur imminently or for which there is reason to believe that they may occur ▪ Enquiry of those charged with governance into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements and that those charged with governance may be aware of 	Audit Results Report – December 2025

Appendix C – Required communications with those charged with governance (cont'd)

Required communications	What is reported?	Our Reporting to you	When and where
Internal controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit 		Audit Results Report – December 2025
Group audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the work to be performed at the components and the nature of the group audit team's planned involvement in the work to be performed by component teams Instances when the group audit team's review of the work of a component team gave rise to a concern about the quality of that team's work, and how the group audit team addressed the concern Any limitations on the ability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in support of the group audit opinion, for example, where the group audit team's access to people or information may have been restricted Fraud or suspected fraud involving group management, component management, employees who have significant roles in group-wide controls or others where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement of the group financial statements Significant deficiencies identified in the group's system of internal control 		Audit Plan – April 2025 Audit Results Report – December 2025
Representations	Written representations we are requesting from management and/or those charged with governance		Audit Results Report – December 2025
System of quality management	Audit Results Report – December 2025		Audit Results Report – December 2025
Material inconsistencies and misstatements	Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise		Audit Results Report – December 2025
Auditors report	Audit Results Report – December 2025		Audit Results Report – December 2025

EY | Building a better working world

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