

## Audit and Assurance Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 November 2020
<b>Subject</b>	Assessment of External Audit
<b>Agenda No</b>	11
<b>Paper No</b>	10.10 a
<b>Prepared By</b>	Chair
<b>Purpose</b>	Discuss

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Each year the Audit and Assurance Committee should undertake an assessment of external audit. Attached at Annex A (separate document) is a copy of the ICAS Guide for Evaluating your Auditor that we used last year to structure this assessment and propose we use again this year.

### 2. Evaluating your Auditor

- 2.1 The purpose of the guide is to act as a checklist to support the evaluation of external audit. It aims to help Committees:
- Evaluate the performance and effectiveness of their external auditors
  - Manage and review their relationship with their auditors
  - Work with auditors to secure high quality audit and value for money.
- 2.2 While we are undertaking this evaluation now, the guide should be used throughout the year including when we are considering the annual audit plan.
- 2.3 While Committee Members should read the full guide, specific reference should be made to the checklist on page 12. This does not need completed, but we should use this to help inform our discussion at the meeting.
- 2.4 It would then be helpful to get a view on how best we use the guide throughout the year and whether there are any specific areas we want to focus on.

### 3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Committee Members are asked to review the Guide and consider specific questions they want to ask of External Audit at the meeting in November.

## GOVERNANCE CHECKLIST

Strategic consideration	Impact
Environment	nil
Governance	The assessment aligns to the responsibilities of the Committee outlined in its Terms of Reference and is viewed as good governance.
Data	nil
Finance	nil
Staff	nil
Equalities	nil
Estates	nil
Communications and Presentation	nil

Strategic Objective	Contribution
<p><b>Dignity, fairness and respect</b></p> <p>Delivering a service with dignity, fairness and respect at its core.</p>	Not Applicable
<p><b>Equality and tackling poverty</b></p> <p>Promoting equality and tackling poverty.</p>	Not Applicable
<p><b>Efficiency and alignment</b></p> <p>Ensuring efficiency and aligning our activities with wider public sector for the benefit of the people we serve.</p>	This toolkit helps the Committee measure and evaluate the effectiveness of external audit, which aligns to this strategic objective.
<p><b>Economy, society and environment</b></p> <p>Contributing to our economy, society and protection of our environment.</p>	Not Applicable