



Future of Local Audit Shaping the practical design aspects of our proposals

Following the announcement of its decision to abolish the Audit Commission in August 2010, the Government consulted on its proposals for a new local public audit framework earlier this year. (The consultation document may be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localpublicauditconsult>)

DCLG is planning to set out its detailed proposals shortly in a Government Response to the Consultation.

Now we want to give principal local public bodies an opportunity to really shape the design of our proposals. We want to hear views in the New Year in order to:

- a. Clarify our proposals and the timescale for introduction of the new audit regime;
- b. Work with local bodies on the detail of key aspects of our proposals;
- c. Discuss the transitional period between now and the start of the new regime, which will include an update from the Audit Commission.

The National Audit Office will also be attending, giving local public bodies a real chance to shape the early thinking on local Value for Money arrangements in the new framework.

The workshop is aimed at Finance Directors/Treasurers but others - including Members and those managing democratic services or strategy/performance departments - would also be welcome to attend.

The workshop will be presented by policy leads from DCLG's Future of Local Audit team, and will include sessions by the National Audit Office and the Audit Commission.

Content of the events

1. Summary of the reforms and clarifying the timetable.
2. Workshops to explore the following detailed issues in the proposals:
 - a. DCLG: The framework in practice: setting up Independent Auditor Appointment Panels (IAAPs), the role of IAAPs, and exploring the possibility of joint procurement;
 - b. NAO: early thinking on local auditors' Value for Money work;
3. The transitional period of outsourcing until the start of the new regime:
 - a. Audit Commission: the process for appointing auditors for 2012/13, and their role in the remaining period;
 - b. DCLG: Seeking views on the length of outsourcing contracts.