

**INVERCLYDE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD
AUDIT COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**



1	Introduction
1.1	The Audit Committee is identified as a Committee of the Integration Joint Board (IJB). The approved Terms of Reference and information on the composition and frequency of the Committee will be considered as an integral part of the Standing Orders.
1.2	The Committee will be known as the Audit Committee of the IJB and will be a Standing Committee of the IJB.
2	Constitution
2.1	The IJB shall appoint the Committee. Membership must comprise an equal number of voting members from both NHS GCC and the Council. The Audit Committee shall comprise 2 voting members from NHS GGC, 2 voting members from the Council and 2 non-voting members from the IJB (excluding professional advisers).
2.2	The provisions in relation to duration of membership, substitution and removal of membership together with those in relation to code of conduct and declaration of interest will be those which apply to the IJB.
3	Chair
3.1	The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee will be voting members nominated by the IJB but will not be the Chair of the IJB. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee should be selected from the voting members nominated by the organisation which does not currently chair the IJB. For example, if the Chair of the IJB is a voting member nominated by the Council then the Chair of the Audit Committee should be a voting member nominated by NHS GCC and vice versa.
4	Quorum
4.1	Three Members of the Audit Committee will constitute a quorum. At least two members present at a meeting of the Audit Committee shall be IJB voting members.
5	Attendance at meetings
5.1	In addition to Audit Committee members the Chief Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and other professional advisors and senior officers will attend as required as a matter of course. External audit or other persons shall attend meetings at the invitation of the Audit Committee.

5.2	The Chief Internal Auditor should normally attend meetings and the external auditor will attend at least one meeting per annum.
5.3	The Audit Committee may co-opt additional advisors as required.
6	Meeting Frequency
6.1	The Audit Committee will meet at least three times each financial year. There should be at least one meeting a year, or part thereof, where the Audit Committee meets the external and Chief Internal Auditor without other senior officers present.
7	Authority
7.1	The Audit Committee is authorised to instruct further investigation on any matters which fall within its Terms of Reference.
8	Duties
8.1	The Audit Committee will review the overall Internal Control arrangements of the IJB and make recommendations to the IJB regarding signing of the Governance Statement.
	Specifically it will be responsible for the following duties:
	1. Acting as a focus for value for money and service quality initiatives;
	2. To review and approve the annual audit plan on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit recommendations and reporting to the Board;
	3. Monitoring the annual work programme of Internal Audit;
	4. To consider matters arising from Internal and External Audit reports;
	5. Review on a regular basis action planned by management to remedy weaknesses or other criticisms made by Internal or External Audit
	6. Review risk management arrangements, receive annual Risk Management updates and reports.
	7. Ensure existence of and compliance with an appropriate Risk Management Strategy.
	8. To consider annual financial accounts and related matters before submission to and approval by the IJB;
	9. To be responsible for setting its own work programme which will include the right to undertake reviews following input from the IJB and any other IJB Committees;

	10. The Audit Committee may at its discretion set up short term working groups for review work. Membership of which will be open to anyone whom the Audit Committee considers will assist in the task assigned. The working groups will not be decision making bodies or formal committees but will make recommendations to the Audit Committee;
	11. Promoting the highest standards of conduct by Board Members;
	12. Monitoring and keeping under review the Codes of Conduct maintained by the IJB, and.
	13. Will have oversight of Information Governance arrangements as part of the performance and audit process.
	14. Monitoring progress on the delivery of Directions on a six monthly basis and escalating key delivery issues to the IJB.
9	Conduct of Meetings
9.1	Meetings of the Audit Committee will be conducted in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders of the IJB.