

**Audit and Scrutiny Panel – report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE
(Chair)**

1. At its meeting on 6 December, the Panel reviewed the first report from the LGA's new internal auditors, Parkhill, covering audits of the LGA's financial sustainability, Liberata contract management, ICT Health Check and ICT infrastructure. Adequate assurance opinions have been given for all of the audits apart from the ICT Health Check where a limited assurance opinion was given in view of the need to strengthen the LGA's client-side arrangements for ICT. Management has accepted this recommendation and is taking immediate action to address this issue.
2. The Panel has been developing terms of reference for the two scrutiny reviews that are to be undertaken in the final quarter of 2011/12 – one on the LGA's overheads, and the other on the LGA's offer to councils. The Panel welcomes the fact that the LGA's Chairman is keen to support the reviews and engage with the Panel in developing the LGA's scrutiny programme.
3. At its December meeting the Panel reviewed the six month performance report for the LGA, covering delivery of the LGA's programmes, financial performance, and key corporate health indicators. Members welcomed the information presented but asked for the performance reports to be developed so they are clear about the impact of the LGA's work, and also areas where targets have not been achieved. The Panel also reviewed the LGA's strategic risk register.
4. Following a tendering exercise, the Panel has recently appointed new external auditors, Littlejohn, for the LGA and its associated organisations. Littlejohn will be undertaking the audit of the 2011/12 statutory accounts.

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