

## **Audit and Scrutiny Panel – Report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE (Chairman)**

1. At its last meeting on 30 May, the Panel reviewed the audited consolidated financial statements for the LGA along with the audited financial statements for the two LGA property companies and the Leadership Centre for Local Government, prior to these being adopted by the Resources Panel and the relevant company boards. These financial statements have all received an unqualified audit opinion from the LGA's external auditors, Littlejohn LLP. The LGA and its related bodies had a positive financial result with an operating surplus of £1.655m before financing income and costs, contributions from joint ventures and adjustments relating to pension scheme items.
2. The Panel received the 2011/12 annual report from the LGA's internal auditors, Parkhill. Based on the work undertaken the internal auditor's overall opinion is that adequate and effective arrangements are in place for risk management, governance and the LGA's control processes. The Panel also agreed the internal audit programme for 2012/13, taking into account the key risks being managed by the LGA.
3. The Panel reviewed the twelve month performance report on delivery against the 2011/12 business plan, prior to this being presented to the LGA's Leadership Board. This showed that the majority of business plan objectives have been achieved. The Panel also reviewed the LGA's strategic risk register which is now being regularly reported to Leadership Board.
4. The Panel received feedback on the two scrutiny reviews for 2011/12 that are now close to completion – one on the LGA's overheads, and the other on the LGA's offer to councils. The Panel noted the progress being made with the reviews which are due to report with their final recommendations to the Panel's July meeting.
5. Members discussed the panel's annual report for 2011/12. This was presented by Councillor David Neighbour to the LGA's General Assembly on 26 June.

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