

Before and after your Best Value Audit

The experiences of:



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Pre Audit Situation

‘The Commission’s approach to the audit assumes that councils are already managing their performance and monitoring their adherence to the statutory duties. Therefore, a council’s own assessment of its performance is a key feature of the audit approach.’

Audit Scotland: Guide for year 1 councils: Feb 2004

Preparation

- *What preparation was made for the audit?*
- *Was there a programme drawn up?*
- *What did the programme contain?*

Submission

- *What was the approach?*
- *What was the structure?*
- *How big was the submission?*
- *How did the audit team use the submission?*

Managing the Audit

- *How was the audit team's presence managed?*
- *What were the briefing and debriefing arrangements?*
- *What were the interview arrangements?*

Areas for Discussion

- *Did the audit team split the areas for discussion?*
- *Did they counter-check with different people?*

Interviews

- *Who made the choice on people to be interviewed?*
- *How did the choice reflect the structure?*

Members

- *How were Members briefed?*
- *How did the opposition react?*
- *How understanding were the audit team about 'politics'?*

Agreeing the Report

- *How was agreement reached with the Audit Team on the report?*
- *How did the council inform its people?*
- *How large was the Improvement Plan*

Publication of the Report

- *What arrangements were made with the council?*
- *How many copies were the council given?*
- *What arrangements did the council make?*

What has happened since...

- *How well has the improvement plan progressed?*
- *What has been the effect of the Best Value Audit on:*
 - a. The Corporate Centre?*
 - b. The Members?*
 - c. Employees?*