

Summary audit objectives, findings and conclusions

Audits concluded or in progress at 31st October 2013

Audits where only the objective had previously been reported (September 2013 Subcommittee), which are now concluded

Audit title	Audit Objective	Findings	Conclusion/Opinion
Annual Governance Statement	To review the methodology applied to compile both the departmental statements and the co-ordinated corporate statement and ascertain there was sufficient supporting evidence.	There were adequate arrangements to demonstrate compliance to the principles of good governance outlined in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework.	The work formed part of the HoIAS annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment, concluding that overall, there has been a substantial strengthening of ESPO's governance arrangements and the general direction of travel for future governance arrangements is positive.
Performance Management	To ensure that there was a framework to ensure compliance with the Constitution requirements including benchmarking.	The audit evaluated how the performance management framework had been designed and implemented and how responsibilities had been allocated. Whilst there is evidence of performance management against the ESPO four year business strategy, it is fragmented. Additionally, some agreed target measures are still being developed and are yet to be implemented and assigned for monitoring.	Provisional final report issued with substantial assurance. Management has accepted the findings.

Audits in progress at the end of October 2013

Audit title	Audit Objective – to ensure that...	Position
Medium Term Financial Strategy	There are robust processes for validating assumptions, monitoring achievements and reporting progress against efficiency projects.	Control evaluation
Business Forecasting	There is a robust framework for forecasting and acting on triggers	Terms of engagement agreed and the audit is due to start in mid-November.
Risk Management	The revised policy and framework is operating as intended and lines of defence are understood and complied with.	Planned
Servicing Authority	The servicing authority is achieving its requirements and objectives.	Planned. The Consortium Treasurer is keen for the audit to take place despite the revised agreement not yet being signed.
E-Tendering	The security requirements and audit trail are robust.	Underway with ad-hoc advice provided.
Energy	The requests of customers regarding meter points have been accurately transferred under the new gas portfolio. Additionally, that energy contracts are adequately governed.	Underway but awaiting further information from ESPO in order to progress the audit. Leicestershire representative on the Energy Governance Panel provided information from the September meeting. Will evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the information and how easily assurance can be gained by partners.
Attendance management	Procedures adhere to the corporate attendance management policy	Being scoped