

# Midlothian Integration Joint Board Audit and Risk Committee



## Revisions of Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Committee and the Strategic Planning Group

**Thursday, 6 June 2024**

**Item number: 5.6**

### **Executive summary**

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The IJB has two committees. These are –

- The Strategic Planning Group – this is a statutory requirement under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act 2014.
- An Audit and Risk Committee – this is the IJB's committee of governance.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for both these committees now required to be reviewed given that the current documents are several years old.

The Audit and Risk committee cannot agree these ToR's, that is a matter for the IJB itself however it will be very helpful if the committee can consider these revised and reviewed ToRs and, when these ToRs are presented to the IJB, reflect its opinions at that time.

### **Committee members are asked to:**

- Consider these revised ToRs and reflect on any suggested amendments.
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## 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 This report presents, for comment only, revised Terms of reference for the IJB's Audit and Risk Committee and the IJB's Strategic Planning Group.

## 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 Committee members are asked to
- Consider these revised Terms of Reference and reflect on any suggested amendments

## 3. Background and main report

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- 3.1 The IJB has two committees –

The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) – this is a statutory committee required by the Public Bodies (joint Working) Act 2014 that set up Integration Authorities. Midlothian Integration Joint Board is the Integration Authority for Midlothian.

An Audit and Risk Committee (A&R) – this is the IJB's committee of governance and is set up in terms of best practice in the governance of public bodies.

- 3.2 Although there is a range of statutory guidance in the membership, management and role of the SPG, the specific terms of reference for Midlothian IJB are agreed by the IJB. As the experience of the IJB matures its important to review how the SPG functions and, in any even, best practice suggests that the ToR of any committee be reviewed and revised every few years.
- 3.3 Similarly there is a range of guidance from various bodies regarding the constitution and role of Audit and Risk committees but again the IJB would wish to reflect on this and the ToR of that committee also requires to be revised.
- 3.4 It is not the role of the Audit and Risk committee to review and agree its own ToR nor indeed that of the SPG. However, the Audit and Risk committee has a clear role in the governance of the IJB and the IJB would wish to be advised of the committee's reflection on these two revised Term's Of Reference.
- 3.5 It should be noted that both ToRs have been reduced in length and simplified hopefully allowing a more clear understanding of the role and purpose of both committees. It should also be noted that the membership of the SPG in terms of voting members of the IJB has been more clearly laid out.

3.6 When these revised ToR's are presented to the IJB for agreement, any comments made by the committee will be included in the covering papers.

## 4. Policy Implications

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4.1 There are no further policy implications arising from this report.

## 5. Equalities Implications

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5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report

## 6. Resource Implications

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6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

## 7 Risks

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7.1 The risks are described in the risk register which is attached

## 8 Involving People

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8.1 There are no direct implications for involving people as a result of this report.

## 9 Background Papers

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9.2 None

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<b>DATE</b>	May 2024

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**Appendix 1 – Draft revised Terms of Reference of the Midlothian IJB Audit and Risk Committee**

**Appendix 2 – Draft revised Terms of Reference of the Midlothian IJB Strategic Planning Group**