



Cork
County Council
comhairle contae chorcaí

Good Practice in Internal Audit

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Cork County Council



My background:

- Engineer, Diploma Local Gov. studies, qualified Transport Manager, Certificate in Audit Skills, Chartered Internal Auditor
- Road projects, road & housing estate design, landfill operations, area office operations, private sector, change management, Fleet Manager



Who is suitable?

- What is working in Internal Audit like?
- Starting a new job every month!
- Head of IA needs to be okay with same
- Change management experience is useful
- Aim is to get the changes implemented as soon as possible
- The function of internal audit is to support and improve the organisation



What is good in CCC?

- CCC budget €344m : 8 staff (1 accountant) in Internal Audit
- Head of Audit needs to be connected into the organisation
- Reporting arrangement & insight:
 - T&A only-report to DOS Corporate Services (CS)
 - Attend the CS monthly meeting
 - The DOS of CS is the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) and chairs the Risk Oversight Committee.
 - Attend the Risk Oversight Committee meeting



What is good in CCC?

- What is the Risk Oversight Committee (ROC)?
 - Responsible for oversight of risk
 - Representatives from each directorate attend
 - Individual risk register owners can be called before the ROC to present their registers.
- The Chief Risk Officer assists in the development of the annual audit plan.





What is good in CCC?

I attend the Directors monthly meeting.

- Silent observer/observe the culture/new initiatives/problem areas
- Present summary of audit reports, recommendations follow up

I meet the CE bimonthly

- Present a summary of completed audits
- Present an update from the IA Section.



What is good in CCC?

Annual Audit Plan

- Directors to outline 5 main risk areas/review risk register
- Meet with the External Auditor
- Review NOAC report and KPI's reports (poor results)
- Review any LGAS VFM reports
- Liaise with the Audit Committee
- Include any concerns that became apparent
- Include any concerns that arose in other counties
- Meet & agree plan with the Chief Risk Officer
- Agree and gain approval from the CE
- Present to the Audit Committee



What is good in CCC?

When we audit:

- Is all in order in area being audited
- Look for efficiencies which tie into VFM
- Conduct a conversation with auditee, so that he/she can appreciate the inefficiencies or issues identified - early acceptance of the issues aids early rectification of these matters
- The advantage- no push back when the draft report is published-no surprises-issues often now addressed while audit is still underway



What is good in CCC?



Audit Opinion: traffic light system

Red - no assurance

Amber - limited assurance

Green – satisfactory assurance

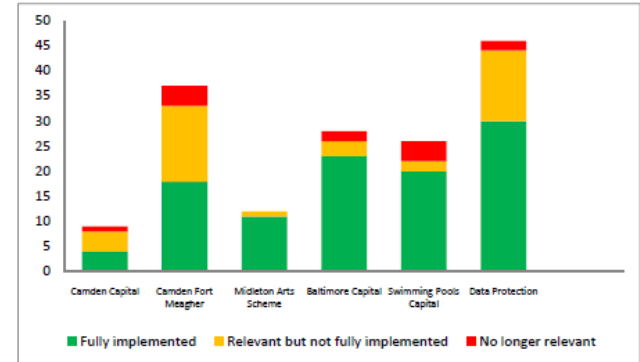


What is good in CCC?

Audit follow up:

- Must be efficient
- Auditee self declaration
- IA to validate the response by sampling
- Report the findings to the CE & the Audit Committee
- Keep sampling until all complete

Figure 1





What is good in CCC?

- Other items:
 - Reports have to be consistent + high quality
 - Procedure Manual: commencement of process, right through to the final report
 - Implementation of the International Audit Standards
 - Chartered Internal Auditor



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Thank You

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