



**REPORT TO: PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 NOVEMBER 2025**

**REPORT ON: AUDIT SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT AND INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024/25**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

**REPORT NO: PAC47-2025**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Integration Joint Board's (IJB) Draft Audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 March 2025 for approval, to note the draft external auditor's report in relation to these accounts and approve the response to this report.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the contents of the attached Audit Scotland cover letter (attached as Appendix 1) and the draft external auditor's 2024/25 Annual Audit Report (attached as Appendix 2) including the completed action plan outlined on page 20 of the report, and in particular that Audit Scotland have issued an unmodified audit opinion on the IJB's 2024/25 Annual Accounts;
- 2.2 Endorses this report as the IJB's formal response to the external auditor's report;
- 2.3 Instructs the Chief Finance Officer to provide an update on progress of the action plan noted in Appendix 1 of the external auditor's report by March 2026;
- 2.4 Approves the attached Audited Annual Accounts (attached as Appendix 3) for signature and instructs the Chief Finance Officer to return these to the external auditor;
- 2.5 Instructs the Chief Finance Officer to arrange for the above Annual Accounts to be published on the Dundee Health & Social Care Partnership website by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**4.0 MAIN TEXT**

**4.1 Background**

4.1.1 The IJB's Draft Annual Accounts 2024/25 were presented to the IJB at its meeting of the 18 June 2025 and submitted to Audit Scotland by the Chief Finance Officer on the 18 June 2025 (Article VII of the minute of the meeting refers). The IJB is required to prepare financial statements for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 following the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code"). The Annual Accounts report the financial performance of the IJB. Its main purpose is to demonstrate the stewardship of the public funds which have been entrusted to the IJB for the delivery of the IJB's vision and its core objectives.

- 4.1.2 Regulation 11 of The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 requires local government bodies to publish on its website its signed audited annual accounts by 31 October each year. Audit Scotland have acknowledged that the failure to meet this current year's deadline was due to the availability of resources to complete the 2024/25 audit and that the IJB had submitted its accounts to them in time as per the agreed timetable.
- 4.1.3 Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Plan for 2024/25 in relation to Dundee Integration Joint Board was presented to the Integration Joint Board meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025. This described how the auditor would deliver their audit to the IJB, outlined their responsibilities and their intended approach.
- 4.1.4 It should be noted that the Annual Accounts 2024/25 remain in draft format until they are formally signed off by the Chair of the IJB, Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer therefore the attached version may be subject to change. Any significant changes will be noted at the next available formal governance meeting of the IJB or PAC.

## **4.2 External Auditors Report**

- 4.2.1 Audit Scotland has now completed their audit work and, in accordance with auditing standards, are required to report the outcome of their work in relation to their review of the financial statements, prior to formally issuing their audit opinion. This requirement has been addressed in the attached External Auditor's Report.
- 4.2.2 The report summarises the findings in relation to the overall audit of the IJB for the year ended 31 March 2025. It describes the scope of audit work undertaken during 2024/25 as follows:

Audit of 2024/25 Annual Accounts  
Financial Management and Sustainability  
Vision, Leadership and Governance  
Use of Resource to Improve Outcomes

- 4.2.3 In addition to the members of the IJB, the external auditor's report is also addressed to the Controller of Audit of the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

## **4.3 Key Messages Arising from the External Audit Report**

- 4.3.1 Audit Scotland has noted a number of key messages in relation to their audit work over the year

Under 2024/25 annual accounts

- Audit opinions of the annual accounts of the IJB are unmodified

Under Financial Sustainability and Management:

- The financial recovery plan has delivered savings, and additional funding was received from partners in 2024/25, but the deficit on provision of services for the year was £6.078 million.
- Dundee City IJB's earmarked reserves have reduced to £10.713 million and non-earmarked reserves to £1.022 million at 31 March 2025. This limits the financial flexibility available for contingencies through the non-earmarked balance.
- The 2025/26 budget has been balanced through planned savings and use of reserves to address the £17.548 million funding gap. The projected budget gap for 2026/27 to 2029/30 totals £52.5 million.
- Dundee City IJB's financial management and reporting arrangements are effective, but the IJB recognises that addressing the significant financial pressures will require further funding, strengthened collaborative working, strategic planning, robust financial management, a reserves policy and effective workforce planning.

Under Vision, Leadership, Governance and Use of Resources

- Dundee City IJB's Strategic Commissioning Framework 2023-2033 continues to provide a clear strategic vision
- Governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny challenge and decision making.
- Recruitment of a permanent Chief Officer provides increased stability in leadership

Under Use of Resources to improve outcomes

- Appropriate arrangements remain in place for securing Best Value.
- Dundee City IJB continues to report a mixed picture against the national Health and Well Being indicators. Four of the indicators have improved from 2023/24, with Care at home and Days spent in Hospital when ready to be discharged showing marked improvements against previous years and the Scottish average. This reflects the work that has been put into improving Discharge without Delay. However three indicators show a worsening performance level.

#### 4.4 Action Plan

- 4.4.1 Audit Scotland has noted 1 recommendation for improvement and the associated response by IJB officers is noted in the Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the Audit Scotland Report.
- 4.4.2 It is recommended that the Chief Finance Officer provides an update on the progress of the agreed action to meet the recommendation prior to the end of the current financial year in order to support the 2025/26 audit process.

#### 5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

#### 6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>Risk 1 Description</b>	There is a risk that failure to progress the Audit Scotland recommendations may weaken the IJB's governance arrangements and result in a negative future years audit opinion
<b>Risk Category</b>	Financial / Governance
<b>Inherent Risk Level</b>	Likelihood 2 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 8 (which is High Risk Level)
<b>Mitigating Actions</b> (including timescales and resources )	The development and implementation of the action plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the Audit Scotland Report by the timescales as stated will reduce the risk
<b>Residual Risk Level</b>	Likelihood 2 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 6 (which is a Moderate Risk Level)
<b>Planned Risk Level</b>	Likelihood 2 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 6 (which is a Moderate Risk Level)
<b>Approval recommendation</b>	Given the nature of the risks, these are deemed to be acceptable

#### 7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Officer, External Auditor and the Clerk have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

**8.0 DIRECTIONS**

8.1 The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in sections 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	✓
	2. Dundee City Council	
	3. NHS Tayside	
	4. Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside	

**9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 None.

Christine Jones  
Acting Chief Finance Officer

DATE: 19 November 2025

## Performance and Audit Committee

### Dundee City Integration Joint board

26 November 2025

## Audit of 2024/25 Dundee City Integration Joint Board annual accounts

### Independent Auditor's Report

1. My audit work on the 2024/25 annual accounts is now substantially complete. Subject to receipt of a revised set of annual accounts for final review, I anticipate being able to issue unmodified audit opinions in the Independent Auditor's Report on 26 November 2025. The proposed Independent Auditor's Report is attached at [Appendix A](#).

### Annual Audit Report

2. Under International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISA (UK)), I am required to report specific matters identified from the audit of the annual accounts to those charged with governance of Dundee City Integration Joint Board in sufficient time to enable appropriate action. For Dundee City Integration Joint Board, those charged with governance is Performance and Audit Committee. I present for the committee's consideration my draft Annual Audit Report on the 2024/25 audit. The section headed "Significant findings and key audit matters" sets out the issues identified in respect of the annual accounts, including those that I am required to report to you.

3. The Annual Audit Report also sets out conclusions on the wider scope areas that frame public audit as set out in the Code of Audit Practice.

4. The Annual Audit Report will be issued in final form after the audit of the annual accounts has been completed.

### Uncorrected misstatements

5. I also report to those charged with governance all uncorrected misstatements in the annual accounts which I have identified during the course of my audit, other than those of a trivial nature, and request that these misstatements be corrected. There are no uncorrected misstatements to report.

### Other ISA (UK) matters

6. In presenting this letter and the Annual Audit Report to the Performance and Audit Committee, I seek confirmation from those charged with governance on the following matters:

- if they are aware of any instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud,
- if they are aware of any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial statements,
- if they are content that the methods, assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates in the annual accounts are appropriate,

- if all related party relationships and transactions they are aware of are reflected in the annual accounts, and
- if they are aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.

**7.** Any issues that I have identified from my audit in relation to other ISA (UK) matters that I am required to report to those charged with governance have been reported in the section headed “Other matters to report” in the Annual Audit Report.

### **Representations from the Section 95 Officer**

**8.** As part of the completion of the audit, I am seeking written representations from Chief Finance Officer, who is the Section 95 Officer, on aspects of the annual accounts, including the judgements and estimates made.

**9.** A draft letter of representations is attached at [Appendix B](#). This should be signed and returned to me by the Section 95 Officer with the signed annual accounts prior to the Independent Auditor’s Report being signed.

## Appendix A: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report

### Independent auditor's report to the members of Dundee City Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission

#### Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

##### Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Dundee City Integration Joint Board for the year ended 31 March 2025 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the 2024/25 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the body as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2024/25 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

##### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed by the Accounts Commission on 3 April 2024. My period of appointment is four years, covering 2023/24 to 2026/27. I am independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the body. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

##### Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the body's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the body's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the body's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the [Audit Scotland website](#).

### **Risks of material misstatement**

I report in my Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

### **Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer and Performance and Audit Committee for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the body's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the body's operations.

The Performance and Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 are significant in the context of the body;

- inquiring of the Chief Finance Officer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the body;
- inquiring of the Chief Finance Officer concerning Dundee City Integration Joint Board's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the body's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my auditor's report.

## Reporting on other requirements

### Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited parts of the Remuneration Report

I have audited the parts of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration Report have been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

### Other information

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary

and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

### **Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

### **Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

### **Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities**

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

### **Use of my report**

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Rachel Browne CPFA  
Audit Director  
Audit Scotland  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

## Appendix B: Letter of Representations (ISA (UK) 580)

To be reproduced on Dundee City IJB headed paper, signed by the Section 95 Officer and provided to the appointed auditor with signed 2024/25 Annual Accounts

Rachel Browne, Audit Director  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

Dear Rachel

### Dundee City Integration Joint Board

#### Annual accounts 2024/25

1. This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the annual accounts of Dundee City Integration Joint Board, for the year ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been properly prepared, and for expressing other opinions on the Remuneration Report, Management Commentary, and Annual Governance Statement.

2. I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief, and having made such enquiries as I considered necessary, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of Dundee City Integration Joint Board's annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### General

3. I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the preparation of the 2024/25 annual accounts as set out in your 2024/25 Annual Audit Plan. All the accounting records, documentation, and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual accounts have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All transactions undertaken by Dundee City Integration Joint Board have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.

4. I confirm that the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. As you have reported, there are no uncorrected misstatements.

#### Financial Reporting Framework

5. The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (2024/25 Code), mandatory guidance from LASAAC, and the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, and the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

6. In accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, I have ensured that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Dundee City Integration Joint Board at 31 March 2025 and the transactions for 2024/25.

## Accounting Policies and Estimates

**7.** All material accounting policies applied are as shown in the note included in the financial statements. The accounting policies are determined by the 2024/25 Code, where applicable. Where the 2024/25 Code does not specifically apply, I have used judgement in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is relevant and reliable. All accounting policies applied are appropriate to Dundee City Integration Joint Board's circumstances and have been consistently applied.

**8.** The methodology, significant assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates are reasonable, and have been properly reflected and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the 2024/25 Code. Judgements made in making estimates have been based on the latest available and reliable information. Estimates have been revised where there are changes in the circumstances on which the original estimate was based or as a result of new information or experience.

## Going Concern Basis of Accounting

**9.** I have assessed Dundee City Integration Joint Board's ability to continue to use the going concern basis of accounting and have concluded that it is appropriate. I am not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on Dundee City Integration Joint Board's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting.

## Assets

**10.** All assets at 31 March 2025 of which I am aware have been reported in the financial statements.

## Liabilities

**11.** All liabilities at 31 March 2025 of which I am aware have been reported in the financial statements.

## Contingent Liabilities

**12.** There are no significant contingent liabilities, other than those disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements, arising either under formal agreement or through formal undertakings requiring disclosure in the financial statements. All known contingent liabilities have been fully and properly disclosed in accordance with IAS 37, as adopted by the 2024/25 Code.

## Litigation and Claims

**13.** All known actual or possible legal claims have been disclosed to you and have been accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the 2024/25 Code.

## Fraud

**14.** I understand my responsibilities for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent fraud and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

**15.** I have provided you with all information in relation to:

- my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud,
- any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements, and

- fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control, or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

## **Laws and Regulations**

**16.** I have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

## **Related Party Transactions**

**17.** All material transactions with related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with IAS 24, as adopted by the 2024/25 Code. I have made available to you the identity of all of Dundee City Integration Joint Board's related parties and all the related party transactions of which I am aware.

## **Remuneration Report**

**18.** The Remuneration Report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and all required information of which I am aware has been provided to you.

## **Management Commentary**

**19.** I confirm that the Management Commentary has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance, and the information is consistent with the financial statements.

## **Corporate Governance**

**20.** I confirm Dundee City Integration Joint Board has undertaken a review of the system of internal control during 2024/25 to establish the extent to which it complies with proper practices set out in *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016*. I have disclosed to you all deficiencies in internal control identified from this review or of which I am otherwise aware.

**21.** I confirm that the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016* and the information is consistent with the financial statements. There have been no changes in the corporate governance arrangements, or issues identified, since 31 March 2025 which require to be reflected in the Annual Governance Statement or annual accounts.

## **Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet**

**22.** All events subsequent to 31 March 2025 for which IAS 10, as adopted by the 2024/25 Code, requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Yours sincerely

Christine Jones

Chief Finance Officer

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# Dundee City Integration Joint Board

2024/25 Annual Audit Report



Prepared for Dundee City Integration Joint Board and the Controller of Audit  
November 2025

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# Contents

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Key messages	3
Introduction	5
Audit scope and responsibilities	6
Audit of the annual accounts	8
Wider scope and Best Value audit	12
Appendix 1	20
Appendix 2	22

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## Accessibility

You can find out more and read this report using assistive technology on our website [www.audit.scot/accessibility](http://www.audit.scot/accessibility).

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# Key messages

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## Audit of the annual accounts

- 1 All audit opinions stated that the annual accounts were free from material misstatement.
- 2 There were no significant findings or key audit matters to report.

## Wider scope and Best Value audit

- 3 The financial recovery plan has delivered savings, and additional funding was received from partners in 2024/25, but the deficit for the year was £6.078 million.
- 4 Dundee City IJB's earmarked reserves have reduced to £10.713 million and non-earmarked reserves to £1.022 million at 31 March 2025, almost exhausting the non-earmarked balance available for contingencies.
- 5 The 2025/26 budget has been balanced with management efficiencies, savings and reserves being used to close the £17.548 million funding gap. The projected funding gap for 2026/27 to 2029/30 totals £52.5 million.
- 6 Dundee City IJB's financial management and reporting arrangements are effective, but the IJB recognises that addressing the significant financial pressures will require further funding, strengthened collaborative working, strategic planning, robust financial management, and effective workforce planning.
- 7 Governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny challenge and decision making.
- 8 Dundee City IJB continues to report a mixed picture against the national Health and Social Care integration indicators. Four of the indicators have improved from 2023/24, with Care at home and Days spent in Hospital when ready to be discharged showing marked improvements against previous years and the Scottish average. This reflects the work that has been put into improving Discharge without Delay.

- 9 Appropriate arrangements remain in place for securing Best Value.

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# Introduction

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## Purpose of the Annual Audit Report

1. The purpose of this Annual Audit Report is to report the significant matters identified from the 2024/25 audit of Dundee City Integration Joint Board annual accounts and the wider scope areas specified in the [Code of Audit Practice \(2021\)](#).
2. The Annual Audit Report is addressed to Dundee City Integration Joint Board, hereafter referred to as 'Dundee City IJB' and the Controller of Audit, and will be published on [Audit Scotland's website](#) in due course.

## Appointed auditor and independence

3. Rachel Browne, of Audit Scotland, has been appointed as external auditor of Dundee City IJB for the period from 2023/24 until 2026/27. As reported in the Annual Audit Plan, Rachel Browne as engagement lead and the audit team are independent of Dundee City IJB in accordance with relevant ethical requirements, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard. There have been no developments since the issue of the Annual Audit Plan that impact on the continued independence of the engagement lead or the rest of the audit team from Dundee City IJB, including no provision of non-audit services.

## Acknowledgements

4. We would like to thank Dundee City IJB and its staff, particularly those involved in preparation of the annual accounts, for their cooperation and assistance during the audit. We look forward to working together constructively over the remainder of the audit appointment.

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# Audit scope and responsibilities

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## Scope of the audit

**5.** The audit is performed in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, including supplementary guidance, International Standards on Auditing (ISA) (UK), and relevant legislation. These set out the requirements for the scope of the audit which includes:

- An audit of the financial statements and an opinion on whether they give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement.
- An opinion on statutory other information published with the financial statements in the annual accounts, namely the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement.
- An opinion on the audited part of the Remuneration Report.
- Conclusions on Dundee City IJB's arrangements in relation to the wider scope areas: Financial Management; Financial Sustainability; Vision, Leadership and Governance; and Use of Resources to Improve Outcomes.
- Reporting on Dundee City IJB's arrangements for securing Best Value.
- Provision of this Annual Audit Report.

## Responsibilities and reporting

**6.** The Code of Audit Practice sets out the respective responsibilities of Dundee City IJB and the auditor. A summary of the key responsibilities is outlined below.

### Auditor's responsibilities

**7.** The responsibilities of auditors in the public sector are established in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. These include providing an independent opinion on the financial statements and other information reported within the annual accounts, and concluding on Dundee City IJB's arrangements in place for the wider scope areas and Best Value.

**8.** The matters reported in the Annual Audit Report are only those that have been identified by the audit team during normal audit work and may not be all that exist. Communicating these does not absolve Dundee City IJB from its responsibilities outlined below.

**9.** The Annual Audit Report includes an agreed action plan at [Appendix 1](#) setting out specific recommendations to address matters identified and includes details of the responsible officer and dates for implementation.

### **Dundee City IJB's responsibilities**

**10.** Dundee City IJB has primary responsibility for ensuring proper financial stewardship of public funds, compliance with relevant legislation and establishing effective arrangements for governance, propriety, and regularity that enables it to successfully deliver its objectives. The features of proper financial stewardship include:

- Establishing arrangements to ensure the proper conduct of its affairs.
- Preparation of annual accounts, comprising financial statements for Dundee City IJB that gives a true and fair view and other specified information.
- Establishing arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and irregularities, and bribery and corruption.
- Implementing arrangements to ensure its financial position is soundly based.
- Making arrangements to secure Best Value.
- Establishing an internal audit function.

### **National performance audit reporting**

**11.** The Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission regularly publish performance audit reports. These cover a range of matters, many of which may be of interest to Dundee City IJB. Details of national and performance audit reports published over the last year can be seen in [Appendix 2](#).

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# Audit of the annual accounts

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## Main judgements

All audit opinions stated that the annual accounts were free from material misstatement.

There were no significant findings or key audit matters to report. All audit adjustments required to correct the financial statements were processed by Dundee City IJB.

## Audit opinions on the annual accounts

**12.** Dundee City IJB's annual accounts were approved by the Performance and Audit Committee on 26 November 2025 and certified by the appointed auditor on the same date. The Independent Auditor's Report is included in Dundee City IJB's annual accounts, and this reports that, in the appointed auditor's opinion, these were free from material misstatement.



## Audit timetable

**13.** The unaudited annual accounts and all working papers were received on 30 June 2025 in accordance with the agreed audit timetable.

## Audit Fee

**14.** The audit fee for the 2024/25 audit was reported in the Annual Audit Plan and was set at £34,000. There have been no developments that impact on planned audit work required, therefore the audit fee reported in the Annual Audit Plan remains unchanged.

## Materiality

**15.** The concept of materiality is applied by auditors in planning and performing an audit, and in evaluating the effect of any uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements or other information reported in the annual accounts.

**16.** Broadly, the concept of materiality is to determine whether misstatements identified during the audit could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users of the annual accounts. Auditors set a monetary threshold when determining materiality, although some issues

may be considered material by their nature. Therefore, materiality is ultimately a matter of the auditor's professional judgement.

**17.** Materiality levels for the audit of Dundee City IJB were determined at the risk assessment phase of the audit and were reported in the Annual Audit Plan, which also reported the judgements made in determining materiality levels. These were reassessed on receipt of the unaudited annual accounts.

## Exhibit 1

### 2024/25 Materiality levels for Dundee City IJB

Materiality	Amount
<b>Materiality</b> – set at 2% of Net Expenditure	£7.2 million
<b>Performance materiality</b> – set at 75% of materiality. As outlined in the Annual Audit Plan, this acts as a trigger point. If the aggregate of misstatements identified during the audit exceeds performance materiality, this could indicate further audit procedures are required.	£5.5 million
<b>Reporting threshold</b> – set at 5% of materiality.	£0.363 million

Source: Audit Scotland

## Significant findings and key audit matters

**18.** ISA (UK) 260 requires auditors to communicate significant findings from the audit to those charged as governance, which for Dundee City IJB is Performance and Audit committee.

**19.** The Code of Audit Practice also requires public sector auditors to communicate key audit matters. These are the matters that, in the auditor's professional judgement, are of most significance to the audit of the financial statements and require most attention when performing the audit.

**20.** In determining key audit matters, auditors consider:

- Areas of higher or significant risk of material misstatement.
- Areas where significant judgement is required, including accounting estimates that are subject to a high degree of estimation uncertainty.
- Significant events or transactions that occurred during the year.

**21.** There are no significant findings or key audit matters to report.

## Qualitative aspects of accounting practices

**22.** ISA (UK) 260 also requires auditors to communicate their view about qualitative aspects of Dundee City IJB's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and disclosures in the financial statements.

### Accounting policies

**23.** The appropriateness of accounting policies adopted by Dundee City IJB was assessed as part of the audit. These were considered to be appropriate to the circumstances of Dundee City IJB, and there were no significant departures from the accounting policies set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

### Accounting estimates

**24.** Accounting estimates are used in Dundee City IJB's financial statements. Audit work considered the process that management of Dundee City IJB has in place around making accounting estimates, including the assumptions and data used in making the estimates. Audit work concluded:

- There were no issues with the selection or application of methods, assumptions, and data used to make the accounting estimates, and these were considered to be reasonable.
- There was no evidence of management bias in making the accounting estimates.

### Disclosures in the financial statements

**25.** The adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements was assessed as part of the audit. The quality of disclosures was adequate, with additional levels of detail provided for disclosures around areas of greater sensitivity.

## Audit adjustments

**26.** There were no adjustments to the financial statements as a result of the audit work completed.

## Significant risks of material misstatement identified in the Annual Audit Plan

**27.** Audit work has been performed in response to the significant risks of material misstatement identified in the Annual Audit Plan. The outcome of audit work performed is summarised in [Exhibit 2](#).

## Exhibit 2

### Significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements

Risk of material misstatement	Planned audit response	Outcome of audit work
<p><b>Fraud caused by management override of controls</b></p> <p>Management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.</p>	<p>The audit team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree balances and income to Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside financial reports/ledger/correspondence.</li> <li>• Obtain auditor assurances from the external auditors of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside which ensure completeness, accuracy and allocation of income and expenditure.</li> <li>• Review financial monitoring reports throughout the year.</li> <li>• Review the year end consolidation of expenditure reports from Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside examining any significant consolidation adjustments.</li> </ul>	<p>Audit work performed found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We agreed balances, income and expenditure to supporting information from the partners and reviewed the year-end consolidation reports. We did not identify any significant issues.</li> </ul> <p>We obtained assurances from the external auditors of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside. These did not identify any areas of concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We reviewed adjustments at year end and financial monitoring reports and did not identify any significant issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> no evidence of fraud caused by management override of controls.</p>

Source: Audit Scotland

## Prior year recommendations

**28.** Dundee City IJB has made good progress in implementing the agreed prior year audit recommendation as outlined in [Appendix 1](#). However, as noted in our reporting on financial sustainability below, significant financial pressures and overspends continue and more work is required to redesign and deliver sustainable services.

# Wider scope and Best Value audit

## Audit approach to wider scope and Best Value

### Wider scope

29. As reported in the Annual Audit Plan, the wider scope audit areas are:

- Financial Management.
- Financial Sustainability.
- Vision, Leadership and Governance.
- Use of Resources to Improve Outcomes.

30. Audit work is performed on these four areas and a conclusion on the effectiveness and appropriateness of arrangements that Dundee City IJB has in place for each of these is reported in this chapter.

### Best Value

31. The duty on auditors to consider the arrangements in place to secure Best Value applies to Dundee City IJB as it falls within section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

32. Consideration of the arrangements Dundee City IJB has in place to secure Best Value has been carried out alongside the wider scope audit.

## Significant wider scope and Best Value risks

33. Audit work has been performed in response to the significant wider scope and Best Value risks identified in the Annual Audit Plan. The outcome of audit work performed is summarised in

34. [Exhibit 3](#).

### Exhibit 3

#### Significant wider scope and Best Value risks

Significant risk	Planned audit response	Outcome of audit work
Financial sustainability	The audit team will:	Audit work performed found:
Dundee City IJB is predicting that it will use all of its		

Significant risk	Planned audit response	Outcome of audit work
<p>uncommitted general fund reserves in 2024/25. This will leave the IJB with no contingency to address unexpected events or emergencies.</p> <p>This will impact on the setting of the 2025/26 budget and the level of services that the IJB can provide going forward.</p> <p>The IJB will need to work closely with partners and service users to accelerate service redesign to provide the levels of savings required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress on the financial recovery plan enacted in 2024/25.</li> <li>• Review budget papers for 2025/26 including progress on developing a transformation programme of service redesign and collaborative change.</li> <li>• Discuss with management the progress made in obtaining additional funding from partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on the 2024/25 financial recovery plan concentrated on understanding the pressures driving the spend in 2024/25. This reduced the projected overspend from £9 million to £7.216 million.</li> <li>• The 2025/26 budget required management efficiencies, non-recurring initiatives and recurring savings totalling £17.548 million to be delivered to address the funding gap. The latest projections indicate around 70% of the required savings will be achieved.</li> <li>• Additional funding of £2.959 million was received from NHS Tayside to support the 2025/26 position; this was on a non-recurring basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>Dundee City IJB has made progress in improving its financial position, but the financial sustainability risk remains. Service redesign through the Transformation Programme needs to accelerate.</p>

## Conclusions on wider scope audit

### Financial Sustainability and Management

#### Conclusion

The financial recovery plan has delivered savings, and additional funding was received from partners in 2024/25, but the deficit on provision of services for the year was £6.078 million.

Dundee City IJB's earmarked reserves have reduced to £10.713 million and non-earmarked reserves to £1.022 million at 31 March 2025. This limits the financial flexibility available for contingencies through the non-earmarked balance.

The 2025/26 budget has been balanced through planned savings and use of reserves to address the £17.548 million funding gap. The projected budget gap for 2026/27 to 2029/30 totals £52.5 million.

Dundee City IJB's financial management and reporting arrangements are effective, but the IJB recognises that addressing the significant financial pressures will require further funding, strengthened collaborative working, strategic planning, robust financial management, a reserves policy and effective workforce planning.

### Dundee City IJB made significant progress in delivering savings in 2024/25, but one-off funding and reserves were used to balance the budget.

**35.** Dundee City IJB approved its 2024/25 budget in March 2024. The approved budget noted a funding gap in 2024/25 of £10.686 million. The IJB proposed to fund this gap with £6.686 million of savings and £4.0 million of reserves.

**36.** Dundee City IJB achieved the planned £6.686 million of savings and used the planned £4.0 million of reserves. Additional one-off funding of £2.959 million was received from NHS Tayside. However increased costs resulted in a further £3.216 million of non-earmarked IJB reserves being used. The IJB annual accounts reported a £6.078 million deficit on the provision of services. This deficit has reduced the level of available reserves as at 31 March 2025 to £11.735 million (2023/24 £17.813 million).

**37.** Dundee City IJB's use of reserves to cover recent deficits on provision of services has reduced earmarked reserves to £10.713 million at 31 March 2025, with only £1.022 million in non-earmarked reserves. This is the lowest total reserve held by Dundee City IJB in the past five years, limiting its capacity to respond to future financial pressures.

## **A revised 5-year financial outlook was provided to the Board in August 2025, which highlights ongoing significant pressures facing Dundee City IJB**

**38.** The 5-year financial outlook 2025/26 to 2029/30 indicates that the IJB is facing a combined shortfall of £52.504 million over the 5-year period.

**39.** The 2025/26 budget was approved at the Dundee City IJB meeting in March 2025. The IJB agreed a balanced budget by including £8.160 million of non-recurring savings, £7.338 million recurring savings and £2.050 million use of reserves to address the £17.548 million funding shortfall .

**40.** The October 2025 Integration Joint Board meeting papers reported that Dundee City IJB is forecasting an overspend of £5.966 million after the use of £2.429 million of unearmarked reserves. The financial recovery plan has been enacted and the first report on this was taken to the October 2025 board meeting.

**41.** The actions proposed to reduce the overspend include:

- Further review of staffing vacancies, particularly filling essential posts on a permanent basis to reduce the need to use agency staff
- Continuing to work across the three Tayside IJBs and with partner bodies to identify areas for savings
- Increasing digital support for staff to ensure that the IJB is accessing IT to support staff
- Releasing £0.5 million of committed reserves to uncommitted reserves, although the proposed reduction in the Alcohol and Drug Partnership reserves has been deferred to the December 2025 board meeting.

### **Recommendation 1**

The IJB needs to continue to work with partners and service users to identify areas for further service redesign.

## **Financial management and reporting arrangements are effective and allow members and officers to scrutinise Dundee City IJB's financial position effectively**

**42.** Members of the Dundee City IJB receive and monitor financial information on a regular basis. Finance updates are submitted to each Board meeting with the latest financial information. These clearly state the recurring budget and the projected outturn for Dundee City IJB. The accompanying report details the underlying reasons for variances from budget along with actions being taken to contain any overspends. The

reports are of sufficient detail to allow members to scrutinise the latest financial position of Dundee City IJB.

**43.** Through attending committee meetings, we observed that senior management and members receive regular and accurate information on Dundee City IJB's financial position. We have concluded that Dundee City IJB has appropriate financial management and reporting arrangements in place

### **Dundee City IJB has appropriate financial control arrangements in place**

**44.** Dundee City IJB does not have any assets, nor does it directly incur expenditure of employ staff, other than the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer. All funding and expenditure is incurred by partner bodies and processed in their accounting systems. Dundee City IJB does not have its own financial systems and instead relies on the financial systems of its partner bodies, NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council.

**45.** As part of our audit approach, we obtained assurances from the external auditors of NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council. The assurances confirmed that there were no significant weaknesses in the systems of internal control for either body which would impact Dundee City IJB.

### **Standards of conduct and arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and error were appropriate**

**46.** In the public sector there are specific fraud risks, including those relating to tax receipts, welfare benefits, grants and other claims made by individuals and organisations. Public sector bodies are responsible for implementing effective systems of internal control, including internal audit, which safeguard public assets and prevent fraud, error and irregularities, bribery and corruption.

**47.** Dundee City IJB does not maintain its own policies relating to the prevention and detection of fraud and error but instead depends on those in place at its partner bodies. Dundee City IJB has a code of conduct for members which is publicly available on Dundee City IJB's website.

**48.** As part of our audit approach, we obtained assurances from the external auditors of NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council. The assurances confirmed that there are no significant weaknesses in the arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud at either body.

## Vision, Leadership and Governance

### Conclusion

Governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny challenge and decision making.

### **Governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny challenge and decision making.**

**49.** The Board met seven times in 2024/25, and the Performance and Audit Committee met four times in the same period. The meetings continue to be held virtually, with agenda papers and video recordings publicly available on the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership website. Our observations at committee meetings have found that these are conducted in a professional manner and there is a good level of scrutiny and challenge by members.

**50.** We consider that governance arrangements remain appropriate and support effective scrutiny, challenge and decision making.

### **Dundee City IJB's Strategic Commissioning Framework 2023-2033 continues to provide a clear strategic vision**

**51.** Dundee City IJB's Strategic Commissioning Framework covers the period from 2023 – 2033. Within the framework there are six priorities with actions in the plan divided into short term (2023-2026), medium term (2026-2029) and long term (2029-2033) actions.

**52.** The Framework is supported by a delivery plan with the 2023-26 delivery plan being approved in October 2024 and covering the 18 months to March 2026. It is proposed that the delivery plan will be updated on an annual basis from 2026. The delivery plan is supported by the workforce plan and financial plans to support the delivery of the IJB's priorities.

### **Recruitment of a permanent Chief Officer provides increased stability in leadership**

**53.** The IJB has operated for an extended period with the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer both in acting/ interim roles pending permanent recruitment. The Chief Officer was appointed on a permanent basis in June 2025 which provides stability in the IJB's leadership. We encourage the IJB to work with partner bodies to recruit a permanent Chief Finance Officer as soon as possible.

## Use of Resources to Improve Outcomes

### Conclusion

Dundee City IJB continues to report a mixed picture against the national Health and Well Being indicators. Four of the indicators have improved from 2023/24, with Care at home and Days spent in Hospital when ready to be discharged showing marked improvements against previous years and the Scottish average. This reflects the work that has been put into improving Discharge without Delay.

Appropriate arrangements remain in place for securing Best Value.

### Dundee City IJB continues to perform well against its performance comparators and the Scottish average performance in the national indicators.

**54.** Dundee City IJB's key strategic performance indicators are reported to the Audit and Performance Committee every quarter. The 2024/25 Annual Performance Report was presented to the August 2025 meeting of the Board. These reports set out Dundee City IJB's progress in meeting the nine national health and wellbeing outcomes. 18 indicators are reviewed by the IJB: 9 on an annual basis and 9 on a two-yearly basis as this national information is only available every two years.

**55.** National Indicators 1-9 are reported every two years. In the 2023/24 annual performance report, performance against these indicators was positive when compared to the Scottish average performance.

**56.** In 2024/25, performance against national indicators varies with four of the indicators improving year on year with three of them outperforming the Scottish data. For indicator 14 'Readmission to acute hospital within 28 days of discharge rate' the local position has improved but it remains above the Scottish average.

**57.** Dundee City IJB continues to perform above the Scottish average for indicator 18 'percentage of adults with intensive care needs receiving care at home' and indicator 19 'number of days people spend in hospital when ready to be discharged per 1,000 population. This reflects the work that continues to be completed by the IJB on supporting the population with care at home packages. The IJB has improved its performance on Discharge without Delay from being consistently red in the weekly RAG reports to being one of the top four performing IJBs in Scotland.

**58.** Three of the indicators indicate that performance has worsened from 2023/24, with Emergency admissions and Falls continuing to be below Scottish averages, for the remaining indicator, care at home or community setting in the last six months of life the local performance has decreased

marginally but it remains above the Scottish average. For the remaining two indicators no data is available for 2024/25.

## Conclusions on Best Value

**59.** The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on Local Government bodies to secure Best Value. As Integration Joint Boards are local government bodies under section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, IJBs have the same statutory duty to secure Best Value. To achieve this, IJBs should have effective processes for scrutinising performance, monitoring progress towards their strategic objectives and holding partners to account.

**60.** Dundee City IJB completes an annual assessment to confirm that Best Value is being achieved through the IJB's governance arrangements and activities. The latest Best Value assessment report review was reported to the Performance and Audit Committee in September 2025 to provide assurance to IJB members that Best Value is being achieved.

**61.** Our review of the latest Best Value self-assessment, and of the IJB's performance monitoring and reporting, concluded that appropriate arrangements remain in place to secure Best Value.

# Appendix 1

## Action plan 2024/25

### 2024/25 recommendations

Matter giving rise to recommendation	Recommendation	Agreed action, officer and timing
<p><b>1. Service Redesign</b>  <u><a href="#">Redesign redesign to improve financial sustainability</a></u></p> <p>The IJB is forecasting an operational overspend of £6 million for 2024/25 and will need to use reserves to bridge the funding gap. It is also projecting a cumulative funding gap of £52 million over the five years to 2029/30.</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> The IJB is unable to deliver financially sustainable services.</p>	<p>The IJB must use its strategic commissioning role to work with partners and engage with service users to accelerate service redesign through the Transformation Programme.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>Details of agreed action.</p> <p>Responsible officer –</p> <p>Agreed date –</p>

### Follow-up of prior year recommendations

Matter giving rise to recommendation	Recommendation, agreed action, officer and timing	Update
<p><b>1. Service Redesign</b></p> <p>The IJB is forecasting an operational overspend of £9 million for 2024/25 and will need to use reserves to bridge the funding gap. It is also projecting a cumulative funding gap of £46 million over the five years to 2028/29.</p>	<p>An updating report on 2024/25 Financial Recovery and 2025/26 Budget Planning will be presented to IJB in December 2024 and supplemented by 5 Development Sessions from November 2024 to March 2025. Further progress reports will be presented culminating in Budget Setting report in March 2025.</p>	<p><b>Financial recovery plan implemented but service redesign is needed</b></p> <p>The IJB has completed the 2024/25 financial recovery plan process and has approved a balanced budget for 2025/26.</p> <p>However, financial forecasts continue to identify a significant funding gap over the medium term. The latest forecast indicates that around</p>

Matter giving rise to recommendation	Recommendation, agreed action, officer and timing	Update
<p><b>Risk:</b> The IJB is unable to deliver financially sustainable services</p> <p>The IJB must implement its Financial Recovery Plan and work with its partners and communities to deliver financially sustainable services. This will require a Transformation Programme of service redesign, collaborative change and additional funding from partners.</p>	<p><b>Responsible officer:</b> Chief Finance Officer</p> <p><b>Agreed date:</b> March 2025</p>	<p>70% of the required 2025/26 savings will be achieved. Service redesign through the Transformation Programme needs to accelerate.</p> <p>This recommendation has been superseded by Recommendation 1 for 2024/25 above.</p>

# Appendix 2

## Supporting national and performance audit reports

Report name	Date published
<a href="#">Local government budgets 2024/25</a>	15 May 2024
<a href="#">Scotland's colleges 2024</a>	19 September 2024
<a href="#">Integration Joint Boards: Finance and performance 2024</a>	25 July 2024
<a href="#">The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2024</a>	15 August 2024
<a href="#">Transformation in councils</a>	1 October 2024
<a href="#">Alcohol and drug services</a>	31 October 2024
<a href="#">Fiscal sustainability and reform in Scotland</a>	21 November 2024
<a href="#">Public service reform in Scotland: how do we turn rhetoric into reality?</a>	26 November 2024
<a href="#">NHS in Scotland 2024: Finance and performance</a>	3 December 2024
<a href="#">Auditing climate change</a>	7 January 2025
<a href="#">Local government in Scotland: Financial bulletin 2023/24</a>	28 January 2025
<a href="#">Transparency, transformation and the sustainability of council services</a>	28 January 2025
<a href="#">Sustainable transport</a>	30 January 2025
<a href="#">A review of Housing Benefit overpayments 2018/19 to 2021/22: A thematic study</a>	20 February 2025
<a href="#">Additional support for learning</a>	27 February 2025
<a href="#">Integration Joint Boards: Finance bulletin 2023/24</a>	6 March 2025
<a href="#">Integration Joint Boards finances continue to be precarious</a>	6 March 2025
<a href="#">General practice: Progress since the 2018 General Medical Services contract</a>	27 March 2025
<a href="#">Council Tax rises in Scotland</a>	28 March 2025

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# Dundee City Integration Joint Board

2024/25 Annual Audit Report



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Dundee City Integration Joint Board

# Annual Accounts

**Audited**  
**2024-25**

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# Dundee City Integration Joint Board

## Audited Annual Accounts 2024-25

### Contents

	Page Number
Management Commentary	3
Statement of Responsibilities	24
Remuneration Report	26
Annual Governance Statement	29
The Financial Statements:	
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	38
Movement in Reserves Statement	39
Balance Sheet	40
Notes to the Financial Statements	41
Independent Auditor's Report	49

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## Introduction

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 February 2014 and received Royal Assent in April 2014. This established the framework for the integration of health and adult social care in Scotland, to be governed by Integration Authorities with responsibility for the strategic planning of the functions delegated to it and for ensuring the delivery of its functions through the locally agreed operational arrangements.

Following approval from Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside, the Dundee Integration Scheme, the formal legal partnership agreement between the two parent organisations, was submitted to the Scottish Ministers in August 2015. On 3 October 2015 Scottish Ministers legally established Dundee's Integration Joint Board as a body corporate by virtue of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Board) (Scotland) Amendment (No 3) Order 2015. The Integration Scheme was subsequently reviewed by the statutory partners and approved by the Scottish Government in November 2022.

Dundee City Integration Joint Board (IJB) formally became responsible for the operational governance and oversight of delegated health and social care functions with effect from 1 April 2016, and through the Chief Officer is responsible for the operational management of integrated services excluding delegated acute services. The Integration Joint Board directs Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside to deliver these services in accordance with the Strategic Plan through Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership (DHSCP). The services delegated to Dundee City IJB by NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council are listed in the [Dundee Integration Scheme](#).

This publication contains the financial statements for Dundee City Integration Joint Board for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Management Commentary highlights the key activities carried out to date and looks forward, outlining the anticipated financial outlook for the future and the challenges and risks facing health and social care services over the medium term.

## Role and Remit of Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Dundee City Integration Joint Board has responsibility for planning and providing defined health care and social care services for the residents of Dundee encompassing an area of 60 square kilometres and a population of around 148,000. These services are provided in line with the Integration Joint Board's Strategic Commissioning Framework 2023-2033 which can be found here: [Planning for Excellence in Health and Social Care | Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership \(dundeehscp.com\)](#)

Population, health and deprivation impact directly on demand for health and social care services and can often result in higher support levels being required. Dundee has high levels of inequalities within the city with significant variances across locality areas, driven by high levels of deprivation and resultant impact on higher prevalence levels of health and multiple long-term conditions. In addition to frailty and ill-health which is prevalent in the ageing population, many younger adults in Dundee are experiencing health conditions earlier in life as a result of deprivation and associated impact of drug and alcohol and mental health issues. These factors highlight the scale of the challenges Dundee City Integration Joint Board faces over the coming years.

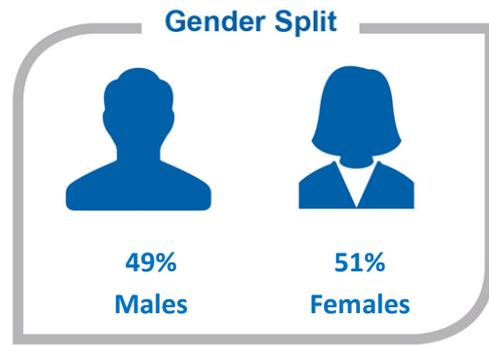
A full profile of Dundee City is set out in the [Strategic Needs Assessment](#). Some of the key characteristics are presented below. All these characteristics have an impact on the demand for services commissioned by the Dundee City IJB, both now and in the future.

# Management Commentary

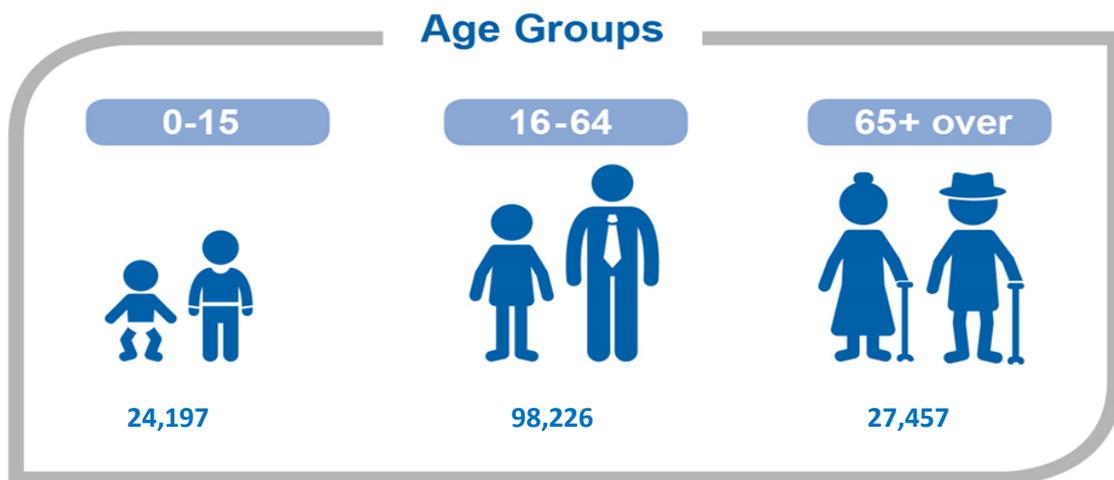
## POPULATION PROFILE AND PROJECTIONS



(Source: [National Records of Scotland](#), 2025)



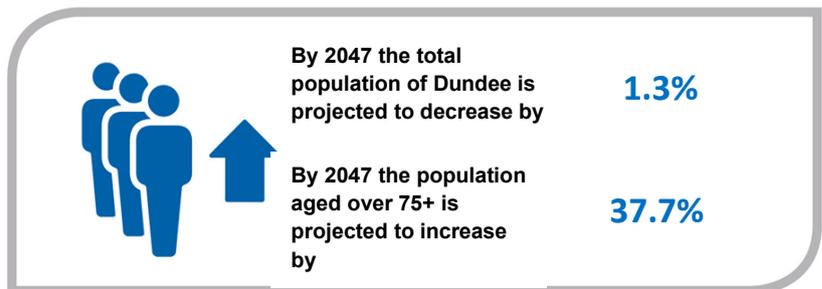
(Source: [National Records of Scotland](#), 2025)



(Source: [National Records of Scotland](#), 2025)

### Projected Population

Like other parts of Scotland, Dundee is expected to see a significant rise in the number of older people with an increase of **37.7%** in those over 75 anticipated over the next 22 years.



# Management Commentary

## Life Expectancy

Dundee **males have the third lowest** life expectancy in Scotland and Dundee **females have the fourth lowest** life expectancy in Scotland, with factors such as prevalence of substance misuse, mental health problems, smoking, and obesity all contributing to the reduced life expectancy.



**Female Life Expectancy at Birth – 79 years**  
(compared to 81 for a Scottish female, a difference of 2 years)

**Male Life Expectancy at Birth – 75 years old**  
(compared to 77 years for a Scottish male, a difference of 2 years)

(Source: [NRS Life Expectancy in 2021-23 by Council Area Scotland](#))

## Deprivation

Dundee is the **5th** most deprived local authority area in Scotland with just over **36.6%** of the Dundee population living in the **20%** most deprived areas of Scotland.



In Dundee, **six out of eight Dundee LCPP areas** are above the Scottish average of **19.5%** and are also above the Dundee average of **36.6%**

(Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, Scottish Government)

## Drug Use



Dundee has the **4th** highest prevalence of drug use in Scotland. There are an estimated 2,300 persons using drugs (ages 15-64) in Dundee.

**1,600** (70%) male and

**700** (30%) are female

(Source: *Estimating the Prevalence of Problem Drug Use in Scotland 2015-16*, PHS (published 05/03/2019))

## Homelessness



**1,377** households assessed as homeless in 2024/25

**45%** of households have at least one identified support need

(Source: *Homelessness in Scotland 2024 to 2025*, Scottish Government)

## Physical Disability



**17,249** people in Dundee identified themselves as having a disability or long-term condition that limited their day to day activities a lot

**11.5%** of Dundee's population

(Source: *Census 2022*, [scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://scotlandscensus.gov.uk))

# Management Commentary

## Membership of Dundee City Integration Joint Board

The voting membership of Dundee City Integration Joint Board is drawn from three elected members nominated by the Council and three non-executive members nominated by the Health Board.

The table below notes the membership of Dundee City Integration Joint Board in 2024/25:

### Voting Members:

Role	Member
<b>Nominated by Tayside Health Board (Chair/Vice Chair)</b>	Beth Hamilton (from 14/12/2023 until 30/04/2024) Bob Benson (from 01/05/2024 – Chair until 23/10/2024; Vice Chair from 23/10/2024)
<b>Nominated by Tayside Health Board</b>	Beth Hamilton (from 01/05/2024 to 29/08/2024) Colleen Carlton (from 29/08/2024)
<b>Nominated by Tayside Health Board</b>	David Cheape
<b>Councillor Nominated by Dundee City Council (Vice Chair/Chair)</b>	Councillor Ken Lynn (Vice Chair until 23/10/2024; Chair from 23/10/2024)
<b>Councillor Nominated by Dundee City Council</b>	Councillor Dorothy McHugh Bailie Helen Wright (Proxy member)
<b>Councillor Nominated by Dundee City Council</b>	Councillor Siobhan Tolland Councillor Roisin Smith (Proxy member) Councillor Lynne Short (Proxy member)

### Non-voting members:

Role	Member
<b>Chief Social Work Officer</b>	Glyn Lloyd (Dundee City Council)
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Vicky Irons (until 16/10/2024) Dave Berry (Acting from 17/01/2024; permanent from 30/05/2025)
<b>Proper Officer Appointed under section 95 (Chief Finance Officer)</b>	Dave Berry Christine Jones (Acting from 17/01/2024)
<b>Registered medical practitioner whose name is included in the list of primary medical performers prepared by the Health Board</b>	Dr David Wilson
<b>Registered nurse who is employed by the Health Board</b>	Susannah Flower (vacant from April 2025) Jayne Smith (from October 2025)
<b>Registered medical practitioner employed by the Health Board and not providing primary medical services</b>	Dr Sanjay Pillai

# Management Commentary

<b>Staff of the constituent authorities engaged in the provision of services provided under integration functions</b>	Raymond Marshall (NHS Tayside Staff Side Representative) Jim McFarlane (Dundee City Council Trade Union Representative)
<b>Director of Public Health</b>	Dr Emma Fletcher (vacant from April 2025)
<b>Clinical Director</b>	Dr David Shaw
<b>Third Sector Representative</b>	Christina Cooper
<b>Service user residing in the area of the local authority</b>	Liz Goss (until 23 October 2024) Vacant (from 23 October 2024)
<b>Persons providing unpaid care in the area of the local authority</b>	Martyn Sloan

The Chair of Dundee City Integration Joint Board rotates on a two-yearly basis and entered another rotation during 2024/25. The year began with Beth Hamilton acting as chair until 1 May 2024 when Beth Hamilton left the board and was replaced by Bob Benson who became Chair from that date. Ken Lynn was Vice Chair from the beginning of the year until 23 October 24, when we have entered another rotation with the Chair position transferring to Councillor Ken Lynn and Bob Benson becoming Vice Chair from that date.

The Chief Officer provides the strategic leadership and direction to Dundee City Integration Joint Board. The Chief Officer is supported by the Head of Finance (as Chief Finance Officer) and Strategic Services. In relation to the Chief Officer's role as Executive Director of Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership, they are also supported by the Head of Finance and Strategic Services in addition to two Heads of Service of Health and Community Care.

Through the whole of 2024/25, interim and contingency arrangements to support and supplement the senior leadership team were put in place to cover a period of absence. Acting Chief Officer, Acting Chief Finance Officer and Acting Head of Service, Strategic Services posts commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and continued throughout the year. The Acting Chief Officer was appointed to the post of Chief Officer from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

## Operational Delivery Model

During 2024/25, Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership's operational delivery model continued to embed a model of fully integrated health and social care services to support the delivery of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's strategic priorities. The overall responsibility for the delivery of operational services falls with two Heads of Service with one focusing on older people's pathways and the other adult services, including mental health and drug and alcohol use. Service managers below this level have responsibility for both council and NHS services as part of their integrated portfolios with a specific focus on service user categories (e.g. older people, mental health).

Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership delivers its services across the city's eight Local Community Planning Partnership Areas, each with its own particular social and demographic profile which require tailored responses to meet their specific health and social care needs. The partnership also provides Tayside-wide health services on behalf of Angus and Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Boards under lead partner arrangements (e.g. palliative care services and psychological therapies) with reciprocal arrangements provided by those other Health and Social Care Partnerships (e.g. GP out of hours, prison healthcare services).

## Map of Eight Local Community Planning Partnership Areas



## Scrutiny and Performance

The Integration Joint Board's Performance and Audit Committee (PAC) provides committee members an opportunity to better understand the needs of communities. They monitor and scrutinise the performance of delegated services against the delivery of the strategic priorities through a range of performance indicators and benchmarking.

Throughout 2024/25, the Integration Joint Board's Performance and Audit Committee received performance reports which quantified Dundee's health and social care challenges in relation to baseline data. This compared a range of performance indicators, designed to capture the progress made under integration over time. The reports include nationally and locally set indicators, the locality level data helps to assist the Dundee City Integration Joint Board to determine the areas of greatest need and to inform the targeting of resources. Reflected in Table 2 is Dundee's 2024/25 performance measured and compared against a range of national indicators. Further information regarding the performance of Dundee Integration Joint Board can be found within the 2024-25 Annual Performance Report ([DHSCP Annual Performance Report 2024/25](#))

The work of the Performance and Audit Committee over the 2024/25 financial year also informs the Annual Governance Statement set out within these annual accounts.

# Management Commentary

Table 2

National Indicator	Dundee 19/20 (Baseline Year)	Dundee 2022/23	Dundee 2023/24	Dundee 2024/25*	Scotland 2024/25*
Emergency admissions rate to hospital per 100,000 people aged 18+	12,456	12,999	14,550	15,154	11,446
Emergency bed days rate per 100,000 people aged 18+	113,813	115,106	113,606	103,847	109,823
Readmissions to acute hospital within 28 days of discharge rate per 1,000 population	128	139	149	139	103
Falls rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	31.1	32.7	33.6	34.0	22.4
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (Delayed Discharge bed days)	443	770	411	245	952

\*calendar year data

Source: [Performance Against National Health and Wellbeing Indicators](#)

## Operations for the Year

Some key achievements and developments during 2024/25 are highlighted in the following section.

### Discharge without Delay & Care at Home

# Management Commentary

The primary focus for 2024/25 continues to be ensuring that individuals receive appropriate care, in a timely manner, in the most suitable setting, with the goal of preventing unnecessary hospital admissions and promoting swift discharge when readiness permits. A delayed discharge refers to a hospital inpatient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care and who continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the ready for discharge date. A common theme amongst all services in 2024/25 was to reduce the number of delayed discharges in Dundee in order to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the population. The focus on effective discharge management is reflected through the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and associated indicators. There are two indicators that relate directly to effective discharge management:

- National Indicator 19: Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged; and,
- National Indicator 22: Percentage of people who are discharged from hospital within 72 hours of being ready.

Within Dundee, key staff work collaboratively with the Tayside Urgent and Unscheduled Care Board in order to deliver on the strategic plan as set out by the National Urgent and Unscheduled Care Collaborative. The focus of this work is to deliver care closer to home for citizens of Dundee and to minimise hospital inpatient stays wherever appropriate. Throughout 2024/25, the program of work was split across 4 key workstreams:

1. **Optimising Access:** Aimed at creating clear and seamless communication and referral pathways between community urgent services in order to create alternatives to hospital admission where appropriate.
2. **Performance 95 -** Improving the flow through the Emergency Department in order to ensure the 4-hour national target is achieved.
3. **Community Urgent Care -** Linked closely to the Optimising Access workstream, this focuses on improving and expanding the role of Urgent Care services in the community setting. In Dundee this specifically relates to improvement work ongoing within the Dundee Enhanced Care at Home Team (DECAHT).
4. **Optimising Flow -** A continuation of the Discharge Without Delay work undertaken last year, focussing on supporting every ward area in Tayside to achieve upper quartile length of stay in relation to the national benchmarking data.

As a result of the ongoing improvement work within DHSCP Care at Home services, the bed days lost to non-complex delay has gradually reduced. As at 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, no people waited in hospital and 138 people waited in the community for a social care assessment. 0 people have waited in hospital each week since 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022. By implementing improvement measures aligned to the Discharge Without Delay workstream within the local Urgent & Unscheduled Care Board programme of work, Dundee has successfully and consistently achieved excellent performance in relation to the locally set targets and is consistently performing in the top 3 HSCPs across Scotland.

This involves use of key performance metrics with regular data reports on progress including setting upper quartile length of stay targets of 28 days within our community hospital wards in Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) and ensuring the Integrated Discharge Team is fully embedded in all key ward areas across the acute and community settings. This provides a means of effectively managing capacity flow by ensuring patients move onto the most appropriate pathways without delay. Implementation of a Discharge to Assess approach with appropriate social care resource commissioned to support this is also a key factor.

# Management Commentary

In order to support those living independently in their own home the Dundee & Angus Joint Equipment Store again had a strong year in meeting its KPI's. 44,066 clients are recorded on the system with 2,532 clients being new to the service during the reporting period. 87% of clients received their equipment within 1.7 days from the order being placed and 92% of collections were collected within 0.8 days. The service currently has 174,670 individual pieces of equipment out on loan equating to over £6million in value. 17,360 individual pieces of equipment were recycled and returned to shelf giving a reissue rate of 68% and saving nearly £3million in value if purchased new. Customer satisfaction rates are high with the service being rated as good by 14,022 clients, ok by 14 clients and poor by only 5.

## Older People

Local Authority Care Homes have continued to admit and support service users who have multiple and complex needs. As a result, an additional senior social care worker has been introduced to each home to allow better support for staff, service users and families. For the workforce, wellbeing ambassadors have now been introduced at each care home to help support and signpost staff to maintain their health and wellbeing. For service users, additional quality assurance processes such as "Resident of the Day" were introduced to ensure their care is reviewed holistically each month. The Care Home Team has had higher than normal staff turnover with approximately 6 new staff across all disciplines over the past 12 months. Lots of work has been done to make access to registered nurses easier and more straight forward for Care Homes including nurses now having specific times they will spend in their link homes as opposed to ad hoc.

Within the Older People Community Mental Health Teams, a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist (CBT) post has been introduced as part of the strategy to reduce reliance on the nursing and medical team within the service and to offer further psychological support to people over 65. The new post commenced in August 2024 and there has been 6 clinics every week held between Kingsway Care Centre (KCC) and home visits. A total of 162 appointments have been offered since the post commenced and the therapist has seen 29 new patients from the psychology waiting list, 10 of which have already been seen and discharged.

In addition to this, regular weekly Nurse Led Memory Clinics were held at Kingsway Care Centre. This resulted in waiting times being reduced from months to weeks allowing the nurses an opportunity to provide information and reassurance to patients and their families before being seen by the Psychiatrist for a potential dementia diagnosis. The newly qualified Advanced Nurse Practitioners were also able to assist the Psychiatrist and impart diagnosis if appropriate. This means that patients could be seen in a timely manner and a management plan be put in place to help them live well with the diagnosis.

The teams have also been supporting Foundation Apprenticeships throughout the year meaning 5th/6th year school students who have expressed an interest in mental health have come to shadow the teams twice a week during a school term.

The Post Diagnostic Support (PDS) team have successfully completed the Care Co-ordination programme with Health Improvement Scotland (HIS). The programme consisted of quality improvement methodology, supporting robust development of theory of change, required to ensure that people living in Dundee diagnosed with dementia receive high quality post diagnostic support.

The PDS Team also facilitates Cognitive Stimulation Therapy groups which continue to be well attended and received, along with ongoing exercise groups. Groups are held in Community Centres and the Hub at Royal Victoria Hospital as part of community engagement and vision under Reshaping Non-Acute Care. A monthly drop-in session has also been

# Management Commentary

created for anyone with a dementia diagnosis to ensure ongoing support is available once discharged from service.

## Adult Mental Health

There continues to be significant challenges in Community Mental Health Teams, with rising referral rates and the provision of adequate levels of staffing due to recruitment challenges. The most significant risk related to the limited availability of psychiatric resources resulting in the Psychological Therapies Service (a Tayside wide service hosted by Dundee) being placed on Enhanced Support by Scottish Government from not meeting the target 18-week referral rate. An 'immediately realistic recruitment plan' and a 'further required investment plan' was developed and shared, with the total required extra investment to meet the target approximating £1.5 million. This was not affordable and a small increase in resource (7 additional posts) was agreed. Recruitment took place in January 2025 and will continue to be monitored.

During 2024-25 priority focus was given to continue to develop new models of care to support mental health and wellbeing in a more timely manner. Funding was approved for use to improve processes around ADHD assessment and treatment and Hope Point has continued to provide 24/7 support for people experiencing emotional distress. An average of 75 new people each month accessed Hope Point during 2024-25. People cite feeling welcome, heard and understood and thus able to return for support when required.

A significant milestone was the agreed pathway with Police Scotland becoming operational in October 2024. This allows for improved transitions for people requiring support due to distress, who do not meet the threshold for clinical input. In March 2025, Hope Point and DBI partners were awarded 'Policing Partner of the year' at the Tayside Division, Divisional Commander's Annual Awards & Recognition ceremony for "delivering an outstanding level of performance in support of individuals in distress and experiencing mental health concerns".

Hope Point has been influential in a range of forums across the city. In particular, links with drug and alcohol services have been established and improved, ensuring that people experiencing both mental health challenges and substance use can receive timely, compassionate, and non-judgemental support.

The service has continued to promote the support on offer via local networks and online platforms. Significant work has been undertaken with primary care colleagues, resulting in a continued increase of people being sign-posted for support by their GP practice.

## Suicide Prevention

Dundee continues to have high rates of suicide in comparison to other areas in Scotland. Suicide prevention has now been fully integrated as part of the remit for the Children at Risk and Adults at Risk Committees within the multi-agency protecting people structure. The Dundee Suicide Prevention Delivery Plan 2024-2026 sets out four priority aims and a series of supporting project actions. The delivery plan will be reviewed regularly, including to take account of emerging data and evidence. The aims have been informed by the four long term outcomes set out in the Creating Hope Together, local stakeholder engagement process, and is aligned to the format of the other Protecting People delivery plans, incorporating actions relating to strategic leadership, strategic planning and improvement, and delivery of key processes.

The plan can be viewed [here](#).

# Management Commentary

A dedicated Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator post has been established within the multi-agency Protecting People Strategic Support Team (located within by the Health and Social Care Partnership structure) to lead this area of work, supported by colleagues across the wider team structure. Alongside other duties the Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator has a lead role in supporting the development, delivery and evaluation of local suicide prevention delivery plans, aligned to both the national strategy and relevant local strategic plans and policies.

Following appointment of the Co-ordinator in April 2024, the following actions have been undertaken to progress the development of the delivery plan:

- Collation and analysis of data gathered from the stakeholder engagement event which took place in January 2024, including a further meeting with facilitators to begin populating the plan.
- Further engagement with key stakeholders including NHS Tayside Public Health, substance use services and various community organisations.
- Liaised with regional and national suicide prevention groups to learn from best practice in other areas.
- Involvement in Protecting People committee restructure development sessions to ensure inclusion of suicide prevention in wider plans.
- Utilised SUPRESE suicide prevention self-evaluation tool to ensure actions are aligned to priority areas in line with international evidence and best practice.

The number of facilitators has been increased to deliver and test a recommended training programme developed by NHS Education for Scotland and Public Health Scotland as part of their Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Knowledge and Skills Framework. In the last year a new training alliance called Every Life Matters was also established in Dundee to build training capacity across a range of Third Sector organisations and wider partners including Dundee City Council and the University of Dundee. This was funded for 18 months by the NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation to co-produce and pilot the initiative and throughout the year 652 participants received the training.

## Drug & Alcohol

Throughout 2024/25 the Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) undertook a comprehensive review of progress achieved against their year 1 (2023/24) delivery plan and subsequently developed a revised year 2 (2024/25) delivery plan. This was approved by the Dundee Chief Officers Group in June 2024 and has guided the work of the ADP throughout 2024/25, as well as continuing to progress a number of areas where progress was made during 2023/24 into the next stage of delivery. Year 2 included a focus on evidencing the impact of MAT standard implementation on people who have drug and alcohol related needs, priority areas from the Scottish Government's National Mission (e.g. access to residential rehabilitation, near-fatal overdose response and assertive outreach). The ADP also committed to ensuring that during year two there was an increased focus on responding to alcohol harms, and on shifting the balance towards prevention approaches.

Other areas of priority within the Year 2 Delivery Plan:

- Gendered and whole-family approaches are now recognised as two additional underpinning principles that must be considered across all action commitments.
- A focus on responding to ongoing and historical trauma, with targeted and specific actions around trauma work delivered as part of a broader Protecting People approach.

# Management Commentary

- Additional actions to prevent drug deaths agreed following the publication of the Tayside drug deaths annual report and the multi-agency event to discuss this report.

Dundee has the second lowest life expectancy in Scotland. Life expectancy varies substantially by deprivation level and the occurrence of morbidity including drug and alcohol use and mental illness. A significant proportion of the difference in life expectancy between Dundee and many other Partnerships can be accounted for by deaths at a young age from drugs, alcohol and suicide.

People in Dundee continue to have fast access to treatment, they have a choice as to the medication prescribed to them, with increasing numbers opting to receive Buprenorphine as their preferred medication and are supported to remain in treatment for as long as required. Independent Advocates (provided through DIAS (Dundee Independent Advocacy Support) and funded by the ADP) support individuals during the period they receive MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) and beyond. Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DDARS) has established an assertive outreach team to support those at risk of disengagement from services.

Harm reduction support continues to be provided as part of the implementation of MAT, and 2024/25 focused on increasing BBV and STI testing, as well as immunisation. The implementation of MAT standards is psychologically and trauma informed, with progress made to ensure the process follows a gendered approach. Frontline staff receive training to ensure they are skilled and supported to deliver the standards. The Multi-agency Consultation Hub (substance use and mental health) continued to progress and work was carried out to establish this process as core business and ensure close links with other high risk review processes.

The Non-Fatal Overdose (NFOD) multi-agency rapid response team continued to meet on a daily basis and provide support to people who have experienced an overdose. There is now formal joint working with A&E with information provided by A&E to the NFOD Co-ordinator. During 2024/25 there was a slight rise in the complexity of the needs of the people experiencing non-fatal overdoses, requiring the involvement of more services (in addition to the specialist substance use services). The three Tayside ADPs jointly agreed to continue funding the Tayside NFOD co-ordinator until end March 2026.

The ADP contracted additional support (managed by the third sector) to progress the development of non-opioid and alcohol pathways. Following a scoping process, models for both pathways were developed and a series of tests of change were run to establish and implement best practice.

Throughout 2024/25 there was also a significant increase in people from Dundee accessing residential rehabilitation treatment. All of these people are supported through the dedicated pathway prior to entering the residential treatment, during their stay and on their return to the community. More women have accessed residential rehabilitation than ever before, and most of those embarking on residential support completed the full treatment. Third sector partners continue to manage the residential rehabilitation pathway, preparing individuals prior to accessing the residential establishment, supporting them and their family during their time at the establishment and providing support back to the community.

## Community Treatment & Care Service

HSCP Community Treatment & Care Service (CTAC) is a relatively new model of health care delivery that has been developed in line with Primary Care Improvement Plans as part of a national strategy set out by the General Medical Services (GMS) contract 2018. The CTAC service provides a wide range of treatment room care to those registered with a GP practice

# Management Commentary

in Dundee. Nurse and health care support workers autonomously deliver clinics across 17 clinic locations Dundee city wide. Services include wound care, ear irrigation, phlebotomy, chronic disease monitoring, injection administration, suture removal and leg ulcer management. An existing anticoagulation service is also established within the service.

Throughout 2024/25 service success is aligned to service activity data highlighting the enormity of the service provision:

- Over 61 staff aligned to service however recruitment and retention figures remain high.
- Over 10,000 calls received each month handled by a dedicated administration team.
- Over 6,500 phlebotomy / chronic disease monitoring reviews conducted each month.
- Over 1,500 wound care appointments per month.
- Over 300 injections administered per month.
- Over 400 leg ulcer review appointments scheduled per month.
- Over 300 ear irrigation appointments scheduled per month.
- Over 600 warfarin reviews.

## Transforming Services

Transforming services is key to the Dundee City Integration Joint Board continuing to improve outcomes for service users, whilst managing this in a financially sustainable way. Service redesign opportunities connect to the overarching strategic priorities. Mobile working practices remained popular with applications still being used for non-contact consultations and services such as over the phone or virtual GP appointments.

A summary of the key achievements over 2024/25 is as follows:

- In November 2024 we launched new pages on the NHS Tayside website providing information about mental health and wellbeing support available at GP practices. The website also holds information for people who may be seeking support urgently while in distress. It has an A-Z Directory of services available in Dundee to support mental health and wellbeing. A poster and leaflet campaign is underway to raise awareness of the new web pages and information sessions have taken place in person and across teams for local groups and services to attend.
- Kingsway Care Centre introduced Wellbeing Champions in 2023 and there are now 3 champions. This year they have identified and utilised spaces for wellbeing on the wards, promoted self-care and supported staff on an individual basis. They have an event to celebrate staff as well as looking at improving outdoor spaces that can be used by staff.
- DHSCP Primary Care colleagues are working with the Health Improvement Scotland Collaborative to learn and use quality improvement tools to map and improve patient pathways. The initial project focused on First Contact Physiotherapy and working with 2 practices to improve the patient pathway to give optimal patient and staff outcomes including shorter waiting times and reduced non-attendance.
- The Multi-Agency Consultation Hub (MACH) has been set up to facilitate collaborative decision-making and supporting individuals affected by substance use and mental health.

# Management Commentary

- The Family Medical Group practice in Douglas is trialling Group Consultations where several patients with similar health needs come together. The practice is also developing lifestyle advice for patients with complex needs.
- An enhanced model of community based palliative care was developed, tested and successfully implemented in Dundee. The model was designed to support palliative and end of life care at home, or in a hospice setting, if people wished to avoid hospital admission. A rapid response, multidisciplinary service was offered to people living in Dundee which provided urgent help with symptom control, holistic support and coordination of care with other community services. This team of specialists included a palliative care doctor, Macmillan nurses, health care support workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. An evaluation of the project showed that the majority of people supported by this service died either at home or in Roxburghe House, and only a very small number of people died in hospital.
- Dundee's Recovery Network was established, the Lived Experience Framework developed, and a robust system for gathering evidence from those receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) established.

## Feedback from service users across the Partnership

*"The staff at Hope Point saved my life. Amazing people! Amazing Service"*

*"I thank them sincerely for the care, compassion and support given today."*

*"Each time I have visited I have witnesses such tender, kind considerate specialised care. I genuinely feel that every time my dad sneezes someone will wipe his nose for him! The nurses preserved as best they could to trim his moustache. His nails are always clean and trimmed and whichever clothes he has on they are always clean and coordinated"*  
(Kingsway Care Centre)

*"I would just like to thank the meals service department on my lovely delicious meals. Also the council and my support worker for arranging this for me. I really appreciate the nutritional meals which I can no longer make for myself. Thank you again, it's going to make such a difference to my overall health."*

*"I just phoned DHSCP and a human voice greeted me. She was really helpful and there was no stress in getting information on what I needed. I really appreciate not getting an automated service. Well done Dundee, excellent service."*

*"I had nothing. I had no family here. I has no money. I had no friends because of my husband. My language was not good. I had no nappies for my child. I don't know what I would have done. But I have hope now."*

## Analysis of Financial Statements 2024/25

The Annual Accounts report the financial performance of Dundee City Integration Joint Board. Its main purpose is to demonstrate the stewardship of the public funds which have been entrusted to the Dundee City Integration Joint Board for the delivery of its vision and its core objectives. The requirements governing the format and content of local authorities' annual accounts are contained in The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. The 2024/25 Accounts have been prepared in accordance with this Code.

Integration Joint Boards need to account for their spending and income in a way which complies with our legislative responsibilities and supplementary Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) guidance.

The 2024/25 Annual Accounts comprise: -

- a) Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – This statement shows that Dundee City Integration Joint Board made an overall deficit of £6,078k in 2024/25 (deficit of £6,155k in 2023/24) on the total income of £357,361k (£336,831k in 2023/24).
- b) Movement in Reserves – Dundee City Integration Joint Board has year-end reserves of £11,735k (£17,813k in 2023/24). These are held in line with the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's reserves policy. Reserves were applied during the year to cover outstanding liabilities to Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and the activities of the Integration Joint Board.
- c) Balance Sheet – In terms of routine business Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not hold non-current assets.
- d) Notes - Comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, analysis of significant figures within the Annual Accounts and other explanatory information.

The Annual Accounts for 2024/25 do not include a Cash Flow Statement as Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not hold any cash or cash equivalents.

# Management Commentary

## Financial Position at the End of March 2025

The IJB's delegated budget from Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside developed over the financial year as follows:

	NHS Tayside Funding £000	Dundee City Council Funding £000
Initial Agreed Funding	<b>136,156</b>	<b>110,180</b>
Additional Pay award	6,180	567
Hospital & Community Health Services	12,585	
Partnership Funding	0	
Family Health Services Drugs Prescribing	448	
General Medical Services	33,559	
Family Health Services – Cash and Non-Cash Limited	25,384	
Net Effect of Hosted Services	8,922	
Large Hospital Set Aside	21,850	
Social Work & Social Care Funding		611
Other / Various		920
Revised Partners Funding Contribution	<b>245,083</b>	<b>112,278</b>

The IJB reported a year end underlying operational overspend of £7,216k for 2024/25, arising from an underlying overspend of £5,825k in social care budgets, an underlying underspend of (£2,609k) in health budgets and a planned shortfall within the integrated budget setting process for 2024/25 of £4,000k. This unplanned additional overspend of £3,217k has been covered by the use of Uncommitted Reserve within the Balance Sheet.

Within Dundee City Council delegated services, the teams continue to see a high level of vacancies as a result of recruitment and retention challenges, which has resulted in use of agency, overtime and sessional staff where necessary with a total of £3,150k spent over 2024/25. Increasing demand for community services, has resulted in increased hours for services such as Care at Home which has seen an overspend of £6,056k. However, it should be recognised that the increased Care at Home activity has had a beneficial impact for in-patient services in Tayside through significant and sustained reductions in Delayed Discharge, as well as reducing unmet need for service users in the community awaiting packages of care and minimising unnecessary hospital admission.

Similarly, the underspend within the NHS delegated service also relates to recruitment and retention issues, with ongoing reliance on supplementary staffing with spend totalling £4,039k on bank, over-time and agency during 2024/25. This issue which has been seen nationally throughout different health boards is being considered by Scottish Government in terms of a response.

# Management Commentary

The in-year utilisation of Reserves balances within the impact of the overall financial position for integrated services in Dundee for 2024/25 has resulted in the level of reserves held by Dundee City Integration Joint Board decreasing to £11,735k at the year ended 31 March 2025 (£17,813k at the year ended 31 March 2024). This is reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	Opening Committed Reserves@ 01/04/24	In-Year Reserves Movement	Closing Committed Reserves @ 31/3/25
	£000	£000	£000
Primary Care	1,858	75	1,933
Mental Health	1,036	(795)	241
Drug & Alcohol	559	367	926
Service Specific	1,452	(1,002)	450
Strategic Developments	3,756	(1,758)	1,998
Revenue Budget Support 24/25	4,000	(4,000)	0
Revenue Budget Support 25/26	0	2,050	2,050
NHST-System Pressure Funding	0	2,959	2,959
Other Staffing	363	(207)	156
<b>Total Committed Reserves</b>	<b>13,024</b>	<b>(2,311)</b>	<b>10,713</b>
Plus Uncommitted Reserves	4,789	(3,767)	1,022
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>17,813</b>	<b>(6,078)</b>	<b>11,735</b>

The reserve balance of £11,735k at the year ended 31 March 2025 is greater than the planned level of reserve of 2% of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's net expenditure as set out within its reserves policy. However, it is important to acknowledge that the majority of these reserves are committed for specific initiatives linked to the funding streams detailed in the above table and are not available for more flexible use.

Achieving long-term financial sustainability and making best use of resources is critical to delivering the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's Strategic Commissioning Framework's priorities at an appropriate pace and scale that matches the population needs. In response to the growing demand for health and social care and financial constraints, the Dundee City IJB recognises that continuous service redesign through transformation, collaborative working and further integration of services is critical.

## Key Risks and Uncertainties

### Unable to maintain IJB Spend

This year the IJB had to implement a Financial Recovery plan in order to bring the delegated budget into financial balance by the 2024/25 year end. The initial budget for the year set out the cost pressures and funding available with a corresponding resultant gap of £10,687k which is the biggest annual financial savings requirement the IJB has had to make since it was formed in 2016. A savings plan was agreed in addition to agreement to utilise reserves to ensure the IJB had a balanced budget position going into the 2024/25 financial year.

By the October 2024 IJB meeting, it was clear that the financial challenge of meeting increasing demand and increased cost of operations indicated that the IJB were not on track to meet the savings requirement, with a projected operational overspend of £9,005k. Several actions, options and controls were put into place and continue to be implemented across the services with actions being progressed to ensure both a robust understanding of financial drivers and improve the projected financial position to return this back towards Financial Plan. The actions that have been put in place have resulted in an improved position by the end of 2024/25 which has facilitated a reduced reliance on general reserves to cover the unplanned overspend.

However, the IJB has further challenges ahead given the increased cost and demand pressures expected for 2025/26, so it is vital that work continues as effectively and efficiently as possible. A detailed overview of efficiencies and initiatives that will be progressed is set out in the 2025/25 Proposed Budget paper that was approved by the IJB in March 25 ([Proposed Budget 2025/26 DIJB14-2025](#))

The challenges faced by Dundee City IJB are similar to those of other IJBs, as highlighted in the key messages of the Audit Scotland report on IJBs Finance and Performance 2024, published on 25 July 2024 and the Accounts Commission IJB Finance Bulletin 2023/24 published in March 2025. If Dundee City IJB is unable to maintain spend within allocated resources this could lead to being unable to deliver on the Strategic & Commissioning Plan at the required pace and scale.

### Staff Resource

The staff resources required to develop robust integrated arrangements while continuing to undertake existing responsibilities may impact on organisational priorities and the operational ability to support delivery of an effective integrated services. As a result, throughout 2024/25 staffing resource has continued to be a key concern being one of the highest scoring risks on the IJB's strategic risk register.

Recruitment challenges continue to exist in a range of roles including nursing, medical staff, allied health professionals, social work and social care staff. This can often be exacerbated by corporate processes in partner bodies leading to delays in recruitment. The delays or inability to recruit also leads to added pressure on the existing workforce and use of bank or agency staff in order to meet demand and/or safe staffing levels.

The IJB Workforce Plan aims to give a whole rounded view of the current situation and ways in which it can be improved over from 2022-25. This plan aims to focus on the short-term workforce drivers, focussing on recovery and remobilisation, with an emphasis on improved staff wellbeing and widening recruitment.

### Restrictions on Public Sector Funding

Continuing restrictions on public sector funding impact on both Local Authority and NHS budget settlement therefore impacting on the ability to provide sufficient delegated funding required to support services by the IJB. The Scottish Government has highlighted a significant

gap in funding over the next 4 financial years (Financial strategy published in May 2023). This could lead to the IJB failing to meet its aims within anticipated timescales as set out in the Strategic Commissioning Plan.

## Care Reform (Scotland) Bill - National Care Service proposals

The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill proposed the establishment of the National Care Service with legislation progressing through Scottish Parliament in recent years. The general principles passed in Stage 1 will ensure greater transparency in the delivery of health and social care, improve standards, strengthen the role of the workforce and provide better support for unpaid carers. Similar to other bodies, significant concerns had been raised around the content of the bill in terms of scope and financial implications of the legislation. The Scottish Government's decision in January 2025 to revise the Bill removed several key elements from the legislation, including the proposal to reform IJBs. The renamed Care Reform (Scotland) Act was passed in June 2025 and still contains a number of enhancements to social care provision. Other elements of the original Bill continue to be explored nationally.

## The Cost of Living Crisis

The higher levels of inflation, fluctuating energy prices and changes to benefits continue to fuel the cost of living crisis into 2024/25, the effects of which were felt by both service users and staff. The crisis has invariably resulted in increased poverty within the city and exacerbated health inequalities that already existed within the population. This, along with the reduced availability of financial resources poses a risk to Dundee Integration Joint Board's strategic delivery aims and continues to be a high priority heading into 2025/26.

## Lack of Capital Investment in Community Facilities

Restrictions in access to capital funding from the statutory partner bodies and Scottish Government to invest in existing and potential new developments to enhance community-based health and social care services is a significant risk to the IJB. Scottish Government 2024/25 Capital Investment Resources available to Local Authorities and NHS Boards has been severely restricted leading to minimal likelihood of resources being made available for community facilities

## Primary Care Sustainability

Challenges continue to present within Primary Care services, due to recruitment issues, inadequate infrastructure including IT and locations, and inadequate funding to fully implement the Primary Care improvement plan. If there continues to be huge pressure on general practice due to increasing demand and complexity of health needs together with the increase in GP vacancies due to retirement and recruitment and retention issues there may be challenges to meet the health needs of the population.

## Viability of External Providers

There remains a risk that our external providers facing financial instability which could lead to collapse of key providers. The increase in cost of service provision, including staffing cost and inflationary increases to goods is already impacting this sector with concerns that a number will not be able to sustain their activities with this likely to be exacerbated into 2025/26 following changes to employer National Insurance contribution rates. There is continuous monitoring into maintaining quality and viability of the services provided by external providers to ensure short/medium term service provision.

## Escalation of Property Safety Issues

The IJB faces a significant strategic risk due to the due to the ability of the partner bodies to effectively repair and maintain critical health and social care infrastructure, crucial for the safe delivery of care and other essential support services. Current areas of concern include Kingsway Care Centre and Royal Victoria Hospital where many key services are provided and there has been an escalation of these issues by the Chief Officer.

## Capacity of Leadership Team

The capacity of the leadership team has been significantly affected following the retirement of the previous Chief Officer. This continues to be impacted by workload pressures and widespread recruitment challenges. Interim Acting arrangements were implemented throughout 2024/25 to ensure key posts were covered. Following the appointment of the Chief Officer in May 2025, a review of the new leadership structure on a permanent basis is in progress and will consolidate and provide clarity to roles.

## Data Quality

Data Quality of information within our record systems continues to be a risk that can lead to difficulties in providing statutory government returns and accurate billing for billable services delivered. This can be down to both system set up issues and user error in the workforce, which has been intensified by recent IT changes and staff turnover. The Quality, Data and Intelligence team are working with operational staff to improve data quality as well working with IT to improve reporting mechanisms and decide on most efficient and resilient reporting systems

## Increased Bureaucracy

Governance mechanisms between the IJB and partners could lead to increased bureaucracy in order to satisfy the assurance arrangements required to be put in place. Although we are encouraged by the change in approach to the National Care Service Bill by making some structural improvements without the Bill, as we had previously highlighted that we have seen this Bill as a further level of bureaucracy.

## Changes to IT Systems

There are significant changes coming to IT systems affecting how staff work in an integrated way across NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council system. Moving between systems has caused issues around access for staff, changes to reporting and accessibility of files and data. This has caused challenges for the workforce in the short-term which has been further affected by hybrid working arrangements. Although the ongoing updates to our systems and IT infrastructure are presenting certain challenges, we acknowledge their necessity in ensuring long-term progress and stability.

## Information Governance

Capacity and ability to comply with increasing number of Subject Access Requests in Dundee City Council leading to potential action from Information Commissioner. A year-on-year increase in Subject Access Requests has meant that this is causing a significant impact on staff who undertake this task. In addition, the changes to IT mean that manual redaction is no longer secure and must be undertaken by a specific software that only certain staff have access to. The Strategic Risk being that we will not comply with Data Protection rules and face action from Information Commissioner.

# Management Commentary

## Conclusion

We are pleased to present the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 for Dundee City Integration Joint Board. The accounts show that Dundee City Integration Joint Board has faced considerable demand and financial challenges during 2024/25, which has resulted in an operational overspend. Efforts continue to ensure the pressures and priorities are managed in a strategic manner to achieve best value through efficient and effective use of the limited resources.

Going forward, Dundee City Integration Joint Board has a significant financial challenge ahead to deliver the revised Strategic Commissioning Framework 2023-2033 in this climate of growing demand and tighter public finances and resources. This framework recognises the high levels of poverty and associated social issues in the city and that this has been exacerbated following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis. With life expectancy in the city lower than it was 10 years ago and a growing health inequalities gap across the different city localities the Integration Joint Board continues to work closely with other organisations in the city including Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside, the Police and organisations in the third and independent sectors to address these challenges. Focussing available resources on meeting the priorities set out within the Strategic Commissioning Framework, transforming health and social care service provision and ensuring the public receives best value in the delivery of services will contribute to making a real and lasting difference to people's lives.



**Dave Berry CPFA**  
Chief Officer  
Dundee City  
Integration Joint Board

Date:



**Christine Jones FCCA**  
Acting Chief Finance Officer  
Dundee City  
Integration Joint Board

Date:



**Ken Lynn**  
Chair  
Dundee City  
Integration Joint Board

Date:

# Statement of Responsibilities

## Responsibilities of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board

The Dundee City Integration Joint Board is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the proper officer of the Board has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). For this Board, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003).
- Approve the Annual Accounts for signature. [Delegated to the Performance and Audit Committee.]

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature at a meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 26 November 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board

**Ken Lynn**

Chair

Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Date:

# Statement of Responsibilities

## Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of Dundee City Integration Joint Board's Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code of Practice").

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with legislation;
- complied with the local authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

- kept adequate accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board as at 31 March 2025 and the transactions for the year then ended.

### **Christine Jones FCCA**

Acting Chief Finance Officer  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Date:

# Remuneration Report

## Introduction

This Remuneration Report is provided in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014. It discloses information relating to the remuneration and pension benefits of specified Integration Joint Board members and staff.

The information in the tables on the following page is subject to external audit. The explanatory text in the Remuneration Report is reviewed by the external auditors to ensure it is consistent with the financial statements.

## Remuneration: Integration Joint Board Chair and Vice Chair

The voting members of Dundee City Integration Joint Board are appointed through nomination by Dundee City Council and Tayside NHS Board. Nomination of the Integration Joint Board Chair and Vice Chair post holders alternates between a Councillor and a Health Board representative. The details of the Chair and Vice Chair appointments are shown below:

Name	Post(s) held	Nominated by
B Benson	Chair – From 01 May 2024 Vice-Chair - From 23 October 2024	NHS Tayside
B Hamilton	Chair – From 14 December 2023 to 30 April 2024	NHS Tayside
K Lynn	Vice Chair – From 26 October 2022 Chair – From 23 October 2024	Dundee City Council

Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not provide any additional remuneration to the Chair, Vice Chair or any other board members relating to their role on the Integration Joint Board. The Chair and Vice Chair are remunerated by their relevant Integration Joint Board partner organisation. Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not reimburse the relevant partner organisations for any voting board member costs borne by the partner. No taxable expenses were paid to the Chair or Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board in 2024/25.

Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not have responsibilities, either in the current year or in future years, for funding any pension entitlements of voting Integration Joint Board members. Therefore, no pension rights disclosures are provided for the Chair or Vice Chair.

## Remuneration: Officers of Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not directly employ any staff in its own right, however specific post-holding officers are non-voting members of the Board. Both the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer (Acting Chief Officer) of Dundee Integration Joint Board are employed by Dundee City Council and the Acting Chief Finance Officer is employed through NHS Tayside. All are funded by the IJB, and the remuneration and pension benefits of these roles are reported here.

# Remuneration Report

## Senior Employees

Under section 10 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 a Chief Officer for the Integration Joint Board has to be appointed and the employing partner has to formally second the officer to the Integration Joint Board. The employment contract for the Chief Officer will adhere to the legislative and regulatory framework of the employing partner organisation. The remuneration terms of the Chief Officer's employment are approved by the Dundee City Integration Joint Board. Other non-voting board members who meet the criteria for disclosure are included in the disclosures below.

Total Salary, Fees & Allowances 2023/24 £	Post	Senior Employees	Total Salary, Fees & Allowances 2024/25 £
135,763	Chief Officer to 16 October 24	Vicky Irons <sup>1</sup>	75,767
26,247	Acting Chief Officer from 17 January 2024	Dave Berry <sup>2</sup>	135,477
85,548	Chief Finance Officer to 16 January 24	Dave Berry	0
16,284	Acting Chief Finance Officer from 17 January 2024	Christine Jones <sup>3</sup>	83,837
<b>263,842</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>295,081</b>

In respect of officers' pension benefits the statutory liability for any future contributions to be made rests with the relevant employing partner organisation. On this basis there is no pensions liability reflected on the Dundee City Integration Joint Board balance sheet for the Chief Officer or any other officers. The Chief Officer and Acting Chief Officer are members of the Tayside Pension Fund which is a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme, administered in accordance with the Local Government Scheme Regulations 2014. The Chief Officer was previously a member of the NHS Pension Scheme (Scotland) (until 15 February 2021). The Acting Chief Finance Officer is also a member of the NHS Pension Scheme. The scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. Details of the LGPS can be found in Dundee City Council's accounts and details of the NHS pension scheme can be found in NHS Tayside's accounts. Both documents are available on their respective websites.

Dundee City Integration Joint Board however has responsibility for funding the employer contributions for the current year in respect of the officer time spent on fulfilling the responsibilities of their role on the Integration Joint Board. The following table shows the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's funding during the year to support officers' pension benefits. The table also shows the total value of accrued pension benefits which may include benefits earned in other employment positions and from each officer's own contributions.

<sup>1</sup> V Irons Chief Officer - Retired 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. FTE is £140,644.

<sup>2</sup> D Berry, Chief Finance Officer became Acting Chief Officer. FTE is £135,477.

<sup>3</sup> C Jones Acting Chief Finance Officer. FTE is £83,837

# Remuneration Report

Senior Employee	In Year Pension Contributions		Accrued Pension Benefits		
	For Year to 31/03/24 £	For Year to 31/03/25 £		Difference from 31/03/24 £000	As at 31/03/25 £000
Vicky Irons Chief Officer	23,079	11,890	Pension	45.7	47
			Lump Sum	186	268
Dave Berry Acting Chief Officer/Chief Finance Officer (PY)	19,009	21,270	Pension	11	64
			Lump sum	15	85
Christine Jones Acting Chief Finance Officer	14,699	18,863	Pension	5	18
			Lump Sum	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,787</b>	<b>52,023</b>	<b>Pension</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>175</b>
			<b>Lump Sum</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>353</b>

Pay band information is not separately provided as all staff pay information has been disclosed in the information above.

## Exit Packages

There were no exit packages payable during the financial year.

**Ken Lynn**  
Chair  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

**Date:**

**Dave Berry**  
Chief Officer  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

**Date:**

# Annual Governance Statement

## Introduction

The Annual Governance Statement explains Dundee City Integration Joint Board's governance arrangements and reports on the effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's system of internal control.

## Scope of Responsibility

Dundee City Integration Joint Board (IJB) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

To meet this responsibility, the Integration Joint Board has established arrangements for governance which include a system of internal control. The system is intended to manage risk to support the achievement of the Integration Joint Board's policies, aims and objectives. Reliance is also placed on the NHS Tayside (NHST) and Dundee City Council (DCC) systems of internal control that support compliance with both organisations' policies and promotes achievement of each organisation's aims and objectives, as well as those of the Integration Joint Board. Reliance is similarly placed on Angus IJB and Perth & Kinross IJB with respect to Lead Partner Services.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.



## The Governance Framework and Internal Control System

Dundee City IJB comprises six voting members, three nominated by Dundee City Council and three nominated by Tayside NHS Board, as well as non-voting members including a Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer appointed by the Integration Joint Board. All formal IJB governance committees continued to be held online throughout the 2024/25 financial year.

The IJB Board membership has seen some changes during 2024/25, including biennial rotation of IJB Chair. Additional support, induction and development sessions from Officers to new members continues to be offered where required.

The main features of the governance framework in existence during 2024/25 were:

- The Integration Scheme as the overarching agreement between the Integration Joint Board, NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council as to how the planning for, and delivery of, delegated health and social care services is to be achieved reflecting a range of governance systems required to support this arrangement. The current version was reviewed by the statutory partners during 2021/22 and early 2022/23 with a revised scheme submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval at the end of June 2022 and final approval received in November 2022.

# Annual Governance Statement

- The senior leadership structure of the Health and Social Care Partnership consists of the Chief Officer, Head of Finance and Strategic Services (Chief Finance Officer), two Heads of Service of Health and Community Care Services and professional leads for Nursing, AHP's and Primary Care. Lead support from other profession groups can also be accessed when required. The Chief Finance Officer has overall responsibility for the Integration Joint Board's financial arrangements and is professionally qualified and suitably experienced to lead the Integration Joint Board's finance function and to direct staff accordingly.
- During the latter months of 2023/24 and through the whole of 2024/25, interim and contingency arrangements to support and supplement the senior leadership team were put in place to cover a period of absence. Acting Chief Officer, Acting Chief Finance Officer and Acting Head of Service, Strategic Services posts commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and continued throughout the year. The Acting Chief Officer was appointed to the post of Chief Officer from 30 May 2025.
- In addition, following the retirement of one of the two Head of Service for Health and Community Care Services during April 2024, an interim replacement commenced in May 2024 and continued throughout the year.
- Formal regular meetings of the senior leadership team including professional leads, as well as regular meetings of extended leadership team.
- Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and a Code of Conduct including the publication of Register of Member's Interests and the nomination of the Clerk to the Integration Joint Board as Standards Officer were all in place during 2024/25.
- The Integration Joint Board met remotely on seven occasions throughout the year to consider its business. Five development sessions were also held in a hybrid format as part of the 2025/26 budget development process. A further six development sessions were held covering a range of governance, risk and strategy topics.
- The Integration Joint Board's Performance and Audit Committee met remotely on four occasions throughout the year to scrutinise the performance of the Integration Joint Board and audit arrangements in line with regulations and good governance standards in the public sector.
- The Integration Joint Board reviewed and approved the updated Terms of Reference for Performance and Audit Committee on 11 December 2024.
- Internal Audit arrangements for 2024/25 were approved at the Performance and Audit Committee meeting held on 25 September 2024, including the continuation of the appointment of the Chief Internal Auditor of FTF Internal Audit and Management Services to the role of Chief Internal Auditor of the Integration Joint Board supported by Dundee City Council's Internal Audit Service. An Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25 was approved drawing on resources from both organisations.
- Assurances are provided from internal audit through their independent review work of the Integration Joint Board's internal control systems.
- Assurances were provided to the Performance and Audit Committee in relation to Clinical, Care and Professional Governance through the presentation of a Chairs assurance Report from the Clinical, Care and Professional Governance Group to each meeting of the Committee.

# Annual Governance Statement

- The Chief Finance Officer complied fully with the five principles of the role of the Chief Finance Officer, as set out in CIPFA guidance.
- Compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code

The governance framework described operates on the foundation of internal controls, including management and financial information, financial regulations, administration, supervision and delegation. During 2024/25 this included the following:

- A continued focus on considering risk in decision making through the clear identification of risks in relation to Integration Joint Board decisions reflected in reports presented to the Integration Joint Board and Performance and Audit Committee.
- The provision of regular strategic risk register updates to the Performance and Audit Committee with an annual risk register report presented to the IJB.
- The approval and progressing in year of the Annual Internal Audit Plan with the presentation of Internal Audit reports and follow up action plans as appropriate. Update reports on progress of the Internal Audit Plan were provided at each Performance and Audit Committee.
- The presentation of the IJB's Annual Performance Report.
- The approval of Best Value Arrangements and Assessment report providing assurance that governance arrangements and activities were in place to demonstrate best practice.
- Continued development of the performance management framework with a range of performance reports published and scrutinised by the Performance and Audit Committee throughout the year, including more detailed reviews of specific areas of concern, some of which were requested by the committee such as emergency readmission to hospital rates and discharge management on complex and standard delays. A further suite of indicators for Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Services were adopted by and reported to the Performance and Audit Committee during the financial year.
- A process of formal, regular reporting of financial performance and monitoring to the Integration Joint Board was in place throughout 2024/25.
- The provision of regular budget development reports for 2025/26 to the Integration Joint Board.
- The IJB and Performance and Audit Committee minutes continue to reflect the nature of discussion and further agreed actions in addition to the availability of online access to, and recordings of meetings.
- The continued development of an Action Tracker with updates to each IJB and Performance and Audit Committee meeting to monitor progress of previously agreed actions and to provide assurance that actions were implemented as required.
- The provision of an assurance report from the Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee outlining the key issues raised at the previous Performance and Audit Committee meeting to the following Integration Joint Board meeting.
- Reporting on issues relating to the Clinical, Care and Professional Governance Group in the form of the group Chair's Assurance Report to each meeting of the Performance and

# Annual Governance Statement

Audit Committee in line with the overarching strategy: Getting It Right for Everyone – A Clinical, Care and Professional Governance Framework with no major issues reported.

- A Directions Policy setting out the process for formulating, approving, issuing and reviewing directions to Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.
- Regular reporting to the Performance & Audit Committee of external scrutiny reports relating to delegated services from scrutiny bodies such as the Care Inspectorate and supporting subsequent action plans.
- Provision of a Governance Action Plan progress report to monitor progress of previous recommended areas of improvement provided to each meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee. Mapping work to develop revised reporting of outstanding Governance Actions has been completed and the next stage to refine and enhance the recording of these actions to show a clear link between source of required action, progress made and actions being taken continues to be developed.
- Assurance provided around the quality of Social Work Services through the annual Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report.
- Assurances provided regarding arrangements to support the IJB to discharge its duties as a Category 1 Responder through provision of an annual report to the IJB.
- Reporting of Complaints and Feedback in relation to delegated Health and Social Care services, and continued roll-out of Care Opinion service to enhance capturing of feedback from patients, carers and service users.
- Assurances on the procedures, processes and systems of NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council as advised through the partner bodies Annual Governance Statements and Annual Internal Audit Reports and relevant internal and external audit reporting.
- The provision of an annual report from the Performance and Audit Committee to the Integration Joint Board meeting on 11 December 2024 in relation to the PAC's activities during the year 2023/24.

## Review of Adequacy and Effectiveness

Dundee City Integration Joint Board is required to conduct, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control.

The review is informed by the work of the HSCP's Senior Management Team (who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework environment), the work of the internal auditors and the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report, and reports from external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The review of Dundee City Integration Joint Board's governance framework is supported by a process of self-assessment and assurance certification by the Chief Officer. The Chief Officer completes a "Self-assessment Checklist" as evidence of review of key areas of the Integration Joint Board's internal control framework. The Senior Management Team has input to this process through the Chief Finance Officer. There were no significant internal control issues identified by the self-assessment review.

In addition, the review of the effectiveness of the governance arrangements and systems of internal control within the Health Board and Local Authority partners places reliance upon the

# Annual Governance Statement

individual bodies' management assurances in relation to the soundness of their systems of internal control, including prevention and detection of counter fraud.

The Chief Finance Officer has completed a checklist developed by CIPFA to demonstrate compliance with their Financial Management Code designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. Following this, the Chief Finance Officer has concluded compliance with all relevant standards.

Furthermore, in order to support the Chief Financial Officer in ensuring they have fulfilled their duties, a Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer checklist has been completed which notes all relevant requirements have been met.

In preparing the Annual Governance Statement, the Integration Joint Board gave consideration to both NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council's Annual Governance Statements. There were no issues arising which require any further disclosure in the Integration Joint Board's Governance Statement.

Throughout the year, the Performance and Audit Committee has considered a range of issues which cover its core responsibilities in providing the Integration Joint Board with independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance arrangements. Assurances are provided through the internal audit reviews undertaken throughout the financial year and presented to the Performance and Audit Committee.

The Scottish Government Directorate for Mental Health advised NHS Tayside on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 that they proposed to provide enhanced support for Psychological Therapies which is hosted by Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership in Tayside as lead partner. This was due to an increase in waiting lists and a decrease in performance against the waiting times standard which had decreased from 93.6% in December 2021 to 70.9% in March 2024. The aim of the enhanced support was to achieve a decrease in the number of those waiting over 18 weeks, and improvement in performance against the standard and improvement in the integration of psychological therapies with wider mental health services. The reduction in performance was largely driven by available workforce and pressures on financial resources. In response, a local delivery plan has been developed and submitted to the Scottish Government which includes ongoing recruitment activity to increase the workforce. There has been a gradual improvement in performance to 75.6% for the waiting times standard as at December 2024.

The IJB moved into Financial Recovery in August 2024 following financial monitoring reporting that the projected overspend for 2024/25 would exceed the Financial Plan for the year, and (without action) would have also fully utilised the IJB's General Reserves as well as requiring additional funding from the Partner bodies to cover the gap. The move into Financial Recovery is laid out in the IJB's Scheme of Integration. The plan implemented measures and actions needed to deliver in-year financial recovery and ongoing financial sustainability. The Year End financial position showed signs of improved financial performance during the remainder of the year as a result of implemented controls.

A national report from the Accounts Commission titled "Integration Joint Boards' Finance Bulletin 2023/24" was published in March 2025 highlighting the precarious financial conditions faced by IJB's across the country as a result of increasing demand, complexity of care and workforce difficulties and characterised by overspending, depletion of reserves and reliance on one-off savings. As a result of local financial challenges alongside the national financial context, strategic risk assessment was increased accordingly.

# Annual Governance Statement

The IJB approved a number of Transformation reports during 2024/25 to reflect changing demands, reprioritisation of resources and new ways of working. These include cessation of Practical Support Service, revised model of care at MacKinnon Centre, and release of Transformation funding to support developments within Palliative Care Services, ADHD services and Frailty Pathway.

Legislation to introduce a National Care Service (Scotland) continued to progress through the Parliamentary process during 2024/25. Amended proposals were published in January 2025. There remains a degree of uncertainty about future arrangements for the IJB and timing for implementation of planned changes.

During 2024/25 the IJB's Performance and Audit Committee was presented with Internal Audit report D06/24, relating to the Workforce, which was outstanding from the 2023/24 Audit Programme. The audit assessed the arrangements in place to consider the design and operation of the controls related to the development of the Workforce plan. The review provided limited assurance and highlighted findings relating to limited modelling of demand to support effective planning for future workforce requirements and limited effectiveness of Workforce Strategic Risk Register to support management actions or assess controls to mitigate risks.

The Internal Control Evaluation D05/24 was combined with D03/25 Annual Report and was issued in June 2024. Governance and Assurance (D04/24) was completed in November 2024 following an update to the Governance Action Plan.

As part of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan, the Internal Control Evaluation (D03/25) and Annual Report (D04/25) are scheduled to be issued in June 2025. Fieldwork is ongoing for Lead Partner Services report (D05/25).

The IJB consolidated its development work around risk management through continuous reviews of the IJB's Strategic Risk Register at each meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee. This led to identification of new risks, review of emerging and escalating risks from wider political, financial and strategic implications through horizon scanning and the removal of other risks no longer considered relevant or subsumed within other risks. Development sessions were undertaken during 2024/25 with further sessions planned during 2025/26 to develop the IJB's assessment of its risk appetite. The IJB's High risk areas are Staff Resource; Lack of Capital Investment in Health and Social Care Integrated Community Facilities (including Primary Care); Unable to Maintain IJB Spend; and Restrictions on Public Sector Funding

The Tayside Risk Management Group, consisting of risk management leads from the three Tayside IJB's, the corresponding local authorities and NHS Tayside and chaired by Dundee IJB's Chief Officer continued to meet during the year to streamline risk reporting arrangements, share risk intelligence and develop best practice.

Following on from the agreement of the revised Integration Scheme in December 2022, the IJB has developed and adopted a Directions Policy which will enhance the governance, transparency and accountability between the IJB, Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside by clarifying responsibilities and relationships and support the IJB in exercising its legal powers to ensure the IJB's Strategic Commissioning Plan is delivered. This was approved by the IJB in April 2023. An Annual Review of 2024/25 Directions issued by the IJB to provide assurance that these have been issued and implemented appropriately was undertaken by PAC on 21 May 2025.

Following receipt of a report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) with regard to compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty, the IJB reviewed its arrangements

# Annual Governance Statement

and implemented a range of improvements to ensure compliance with the duties. This included improvements to the Integrated Impact Assessment reporting within formal IJB and PAC reports, more accessible public access to these assessments on the IJB's website and the provision of a development session for IJB members and workshop for IJB report authors to ensure full understanding of the requirements of the duties. Following feedback from authors and IJB members, some of the format and content was reviewed and updated in April 2024 with the refreshed version being used from 2024/25. The EHRC undertook a further audit of IJB practice in early 2025 and have confirmed to the Chief Officer that Dundee IJB was found to be in compliance with all elements of the Public Sector Equality Duty that were audited.

In January 2023 the Alcohol and Drug Partnership published their Strategic Framework 2023-2028: Working Together to Prevent Harm and Support Recovery, along with a supporting two-year delivery plan. This plan was developed to provide a single, prioritised framework that addresses national policy priorities and local needs. Importantly, the revised framework also extends to cover alcohol related harm, as well as drugs. The strategic framework sets out the Alcohol and Drug Partnership's (ADP) vision that "People in Dundee thrive within safe, nurturing and inclusive communities, supported by accessible and effective alcohol and drug services that focus on prevention, protection, harm-reduction, resilience and recovery." The overarching 5-year Strategic Framework is supported by a Two-Year Delivery Plan (2023-2025) and Investment and Commissioning Plan (2023-2025). A progress report on Year One of the Delivery Plan was published during 2024/25.

Dundee ADP also oversees the ongoing local implementation of national Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual benchmarking report was published in summer 2024, covering progress to April 2024. Dundee has continued to make good progress each year, with grading of Green for MAT1-5 and Provisional Green for MAT6-9 in 23/24.

The Protecting People Annual Report 2023-24 was published in November 2024 providing an update on the collaborative multi-agency work undertaken across Dundee in developing an effective partnership response to the needs of at risk children and adults.

Dundee City Integration Joint Board complies in full with "The Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Organisations" (CIPFA) and operates in accordance with "Public Sector Internal Audit Standards" (CIPFA). The Chief Internal Auditor reports directly to the Performance and Audit Committee with the right of access to the Chief Finance Officer, Chief Officer and Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee on any matter. The annual programme of internal audit work is based on a strategic risk assessment, and is approved by the Performance & Audit Committee.

The Chief Internal Auditor has carried out a review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's framework of governance, risk management and control. The findings of this review are reflected in the Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 presented to the IJB meeting of the 18 June 2025 which supports the outcome of Dundee City IJB's self-assessment process noted above and concludes that although some areas for improvement have been identified these do not impact on the level of assurance provided and reliance can be placed on the Integration Joint Board's governance arrangements and systems of control for 2024/25.

## Continuous Improvement

The following areas for improvement have been identified through the self-assessment process, the Governance Action Plan and Annual Internal Audit Report. Progress against these will be monitored by the Performance and Audit Committee during 2025/26.

# Annual Governance Statement

Area for improvement	Lead Officer	Target Completion Date	RAG Status
Reporting on workforce issues including the Integrated Workforce Plan as well as the partnership forum.	Chief Officer	January 2025	
Further development of improved Lead Partner Services arrangements around risk and performance management for lead partner services.	Chief Finance Officer	December 2024–September 2025	
Ongoing development of performance report information into a delivery plan framework to ensure the HSCP fulfils its remit in delivering the direction of travel within the IJB's Strategic Commissioning Framework.	Chief Finance Officer	October 2025	
Further development of governance arrangements considering agreed governance principles and updated advice from the Scottish Government Health & Social care Division including an IJB assurance plan to ensure assurance on all IJB risks including from partner bodies. Continue to provide an annual report from the PAC to the IJB to provide assurance that it has met its remit.	Chief Officer	December 2024	
Update the Board and PAC on progress in delivering against the remaining actions in the risk maturity action plan following adoption of Tayside IJB's Risk Management Framework.	Chief Finance Officer	January 2025 September 2025	
Work to fully implement the actions in the Integrated Workforce Plan. Strive towards ensuring that the DH&SCP culture becomes fully embedded. Engage staff in developing and maintaining the partnership culture as well as sharing and embedding the guiding principles.	Lead Allied Health Professional/ Head of Service Health & Community Care / Chief Finance Officer	January 2025	
Review attendance at groups based on agreed principles. Attendance at partner groups should be based on a consideration of whether this is necessary to provide assurance to allow the partner body to fulfil their agreed responsibilities in line with their accountabilities	Chief Officer	March 2025 September 2025	
Review best practice guidance document to ensure the operation of all groups conforms to the various principles detailed in the Governance Mapping report.	Chief Finance Officer	December 2024	
Review and implement the recommendations from the Internal Audit Review of Performance Management arrangements	Chief Finance Officer	May 2025 September 2025	
Review and further develop Strategic Plan Performance Measures for implementation of the IJB's Strategic Plan	Chief Finance Officer	December 2024 December 2025	

# Annual Governance Statement

Review and implement the recommendations from the Internal Audit Review of Viability of External Providers	Chief Finance Officer	December 2024	
Completion of mapping and progress towards resolution of outstanding items on Governance Action Plan	Chief Finance Officer	November 2024	
Annual Strategic Risk Register report to be considered by PAC for review and endorsement prior to submission to IJB	Chief Finance Officer	May 2025	
Annual report to PAC detailing Directions issued, in line with Directions policy (including progress reports from the partners where appropriate)	Chief Officer	May 2025	
Review and adoption of FTF's Assurance Principles across governance groups of IJB	Chief Officer	October 2025	
Further enhancement of Financial Monitoring reports to provide details of financial performance against plan and progress towards delivery of savings targets	Chief Finance Officer	October 2025	

Risk Assessment		Definition
Green		<b>On track or complete</b>
Amber		<b>In progress with minor delay</b>
Red		<b>Not on track (reason to be provided)</b>

## Conclusion and Opinion on Assurance

While recognising that improvements are required, as detailed above, it is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of Dundee City Integration Joint Board's governance arrangements.

We consider that the internal control environment provides reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the Integration Joint Board's principal objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact.

Systems are in place to regularly review and improve the internal control environment.

**Ken Lynn**  
Chair  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

**Dave Berry**  
Chief Officer  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Date:

Date

# The Financial Statements: Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the cost of providing services which are funded by budget requisitions from the partners for the year according to accepted accounting practices.

2023/24	2023/24	2023/24		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure (Income) £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure (Income) £000
94,334	0	94,334	Older People Services	103,262	0	103,262
29,665	0	29,665	Mental Health	32,649	0	32,649
43,056	0	43,056	Learning Disability	46,968	0	46,968
11,051	0	11,051	Physical Disability	10,796	0	10,796
10,580	0	10,580	Substance Misuse	10,455	0	10,455
20,180	0	20,180	Community Nurse Services / AHP* / Other Adult Services	20,697	0	20,697
14,808	0	14,808	Community Services (Lead Partner)***	15,496	0	15,496
8,036	0	8,036	Other Services / Support / Management	7,206	0	7,206
34,189	0	34,189	Prescribing	34,986	0	34,986
30,953	0	30,953	General Medical Services (FHS**)	33,362	0	33,362
24,016	0	24,016	FHS – Cash limited & Non-Cash Limited	25,291	0	25,291
<b>320,868</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>320,868</b>	<b>Net Cost of Operational Services during the Year</b>	<b>341,169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>341,169</b>
407	0	407	IJB Operational Costs	420	0	420
21,711	0	21,711	Large Hospital Set Aside	21,850	0	21,850
<b>342,986</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342,986</b>	<b>Total Cost of Services</b>	<b>363,439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>363,439</b>
0	(336,831)	(336,831)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Note5)	0	(357,361)	(245,083)
<b>342,986</b>	<b>(336,831)</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>363,439</b>	<b>(357,361)</b>	<b>6,078</b>
		<b>6,155</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			<b>6,078</b>

## Notes

\* AHP – Allied Health Professionals

\*\* FHS – Family Health Services

\*\*\* Reflects the impact of lead partner services not attributable to specific client groups

Dundee City Integration Joint Board's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the net commissioning expenditure provided to partners to support services. It does not separately detail income received from service users as this remains the statutory responsibility of the partners.

# The Financial Statements: Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's reserves.

Total Reserves 2023/24 £000	Movements in Reserves	Total Reserves 2024/25 £000
<b>23,968</b>	<b>Opening Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>17,813</b>
(6,155)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(6,078)
<b>(6,155)</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(6,078)</b>
<b>17,813</b>	<b>Closing Balance at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>11,735</b>

# The Financial Statements: Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by Dundee City Integration Joint Board.

31 March 2024 £000		Notes	31 March 2025 £000
17,878	Short Term Debtors	Note 6	11,891
<b>17,878</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>11,891</b>
(65)	Short Term Creditors	Note 7	(156)
<b>(65)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(156)</b>
<b>17,813</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>11,735</b>
17,813	Usable Reserve: General Fund	Note 8	11,735
<b>17,813</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>11,735</b>

The audited accounts were issued on 26 November 2025

**Christine Jones, FCCA**  
Acting Chief Finance Officer  
Dundee City Integration Joint Board

Date:

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## 1. Significant Accounting Policies

### General Principles

The Financial Statements summarise Dundee City Integration Joint Board's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The Dundee City Integration Joint Board was established under the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and is a Section 106 body as defined in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The Financial Statements are prepared in compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Dundee City Integration Joint Board will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The historical cost convention has been adopted.

### Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when settlement occurs. In particular:

- Expenditure is recognised when goods or services are received and their benefits are used by the Dundee City Integration Joint Board.
- Income is recognised when the Dundee City Integration Joint Board has a right to the income, for instance by meeting any terms and conditions required to earn the income, and receipt of the income is probable.
- Where income and expenditure have been recognised but settlement has not taken place, a debtor or creditor is recorded in the Balance Sheet.
- Where debts may not be received, the balance of debtors is written down.

### Funding

Dundee City Integration Joint Board is primarily resourced through funding contributions from the statutory funding partners, Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside. Expenditure is incurred as the Integration Joint Board commission's specified health and social care services from the funding partners for the benefit of service recipients in the Dundee City Integration Joint Board area.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not operate a bank account or hold cash. Transactions are settled on behalf of Dundee City Integration Joint Board by the funding partners. Consequently, Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not present a 'Cash and Cash Equivalent' figure on the balance sheet. The funding balance due to or from each funding partner as at 31 March is represented as a debtor or creditor on Dundee City Integration Joint Board's Balance Sheet.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Employee Benefits

Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not directly employ staff. Staff are formally employed by the funding partners who retain the liability for pension benefits payable in the future. Dundee City Integration Joint Board therefore does not present a Pensions Liability on its Balance Sheet. Dundee City Integration Joint Board has a legal responsibility to appoint a Chief Officer. More details on the arrangements are provided in the Remuneration Report. The charges from the employing partner are treated as employee costs.

## Reserves

The Dundee City Integration Joint Board's only Usable Reserve is the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund as at 31 March 2025 shows the extent of resources which the Dundee City IJB can use in later years to support service provision.

## Indemnity Insurance

Dundee City Integration Joint Board has indemnity insurance for costs relating primarily to potential claim liabilities regarding Board member and officer responsibilities. NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council have responsibility for claims in respect of the services that they are statutorily responsible for and that they provide. Unlike NHS Boards, Dundee City Integration Joint Board does not have any 'shared risk' exposure from participation in Clinical Negligence and Other Risks Indemnity Scheme (CNORIS). Dundee City Integration Joint Board participation in the CNORIS scheme is therefore analogous to normal insurance arrangements.

The Dundee City IJB currently has no known or potential claims against it.

## **2. Critical Judgements and Estimation Uncertainty**

### Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Dundee City Integration Joint Board has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Annual Accounts are:

The value of the Large Hospital "set aside" expenditure reported within the total Integration Joint Board expenditure is £21.850m. This figure for 2024/25 has been agreed with NHS Tayside and will be included in both the NHS Tayside and Dundee City IJB annual accounts. The figure is calculated on the basis of activity and costs extracted from local datasets. In line with national guidance issued, bed day rates were adjusted to reflect a direct cost per occupied bed day, uplifted for inflation. As such, the sum set aside included in the accounts will not reflect actual hospital cost in 2024/25. This is a transitional arrangement for 2024/25 agreed locally between NHS Tayside and the three Tayside Integration Joint Boards and with the Scottish Government. Work continues at a national and local level to refine the methodology for calculating and planning the value of this in the future.

On behalf of all IJBs within the NHS Tayside area, Dundee City IJB acts as the lead partner under hosting arrangements for a range of services including Specialist Palliative Care, Brain Injury, Nutrition and Dietetics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Psychological Therapies. It commissions services on behalf of the three Tayside IJB's and is responsible for the strategic planning and operational budget of those lead partner services. The Dundee City IJB reclaims the cost of these services using an agreed methodology based around population shares from the other IJB's. Dundee City IJB is not responsible for covering the full cost of any overspends

# Notes to the Financial Statements

in these areas, nor do they retain the full benefits of any underspends. The Dundee City IJB will also receive a corresponding charge from the other Tayside IJB's for the services they lead on Dundee's behalf. This arrangement is treated as an agency arrangement.

## Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Annual Accounts contain estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Dundee City Integration Joint Board about the future or that which are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

### 3. Events after the Reporting Period

It is considered that there have been no events occurring between 1 April 2025 and the date the accounts were authorised for issue that would have an impact on the 2024/25 financial statements.

### 4. Expenditure and Income Analysis by Nature

2023/24 Gross Expenditure £000	2023/24 Gross Income £000	2023/24 Net Expenditure (Income) £000	Description	2024/25 Gross Expenditure £000	2024/25 Gross Income £000	2024/25 Net Expenditure (Income) £000
205,797		205,797	Services commissioned from NHS Tayside	214,588		214,588
136,782		136,782	Services commissioned from Dundee City Council	148,431		148,431
374		374	Other IJB Operating Expenditure	386		386
33		33	Auditor Fee: External Audit Work	34		34
	(232,498)	(232,498)	Partners Funding Contributions – NHS Tayside		(245,083)	(245,083)
	(104,333)	(104,333)	Partners Funding Contributions – Dundee City Council		(112,278)	(112,278)
342,986	(336,831)	6,155	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	363,439	(357,361)	6,078

### 5. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
(232,498)	Funding Contribution from NHS Tayside	(245,083)
(104,333)	Funding Contribution from Dundee City Council	(112,278)
<b>(336,831)</b>	<b>Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income</b>	<b>(357,361)</b>

The funding contribution from the NHS Board shown above includes £21.850m in respect of 'set aside' resources relating to acute hospital and other resources (Large Hospital Set Aside). Dundee City Integration Joint Board has responsibility for the strategic planning of the amount set aside based on the local population's consumption of these resources. NHS Tayside has the responsibility to manage the costs of providing these services. The value of the set aside

# Notes to the Financial Statements

is calculated on the basis of activity and costs extracted from local datasets. The methodology of calculating future values of the Large Hospital Set Aside is being developed locally and nationally.

## 6. Debtors

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
8,203	NHS Tayside	10,468
9,675	Dundee City Council	1,423
<b>17,878</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>11,891</b>

## 7. Creditors

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
22	NHS Tayside	131
43	Other Bodies	23
0	Other Government Bodies	3
0	Dundee City Council	0
<b>65</b>	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>156</b>

## 8. Usable Reserve: General Fund

Dundee City Integration Joint Board holds a general reserve balance in line with its reserves policy for two main purposes:

- To commit, or build up, funds which are to be used for specific purposes in the future, such as known or predicted future expenditure needs. This supports strategic financial management with resources to be used in line with the delivery of the IJB's Strategic and Commissioning Plan.
- To provide a contingency fund to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies. This is regarded as a key part of the Dundee City Integration Joint Board's risk management framework.

As stated in the IJB's reserves policy, in light of the size and scale of the Integration Joint Board's operations, over the longer term it is considered that it would be an aspiration to achieve a level of general reserves which represent approximately 2% of net expenditure. The value of reserves must be reviewed annually as part of the Integration Joint Board's Budget and Strategic and Commissioning Plan and in light of the financial environment at that time.

Under the IJB's reserves policy, committed reserves relate to specific funds for specific purposes and will only be used for these purposes, often spanning multiple years. Whilst these reserves are fully committed and therefore not free to use, these are regularly monitored. Any change of use, or decisions relating to residual balance will require the approval of the IJB.

The movement reflects the impact of funding for specific initiatives during 2024/25. The committed reserves balance of £10,713k has been committed by the Dundee City Integration

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Joint Board through the planned reinvestment of Scottish Government ring fenced funding in line with the conditions of this funding for Primary Care Improvement Plan, Action 15 Mental Health Strategy and Alcohol and Drug Partnership. In addition, Dundee City Integration Joint Board has made decisions to commit reserves for specific purposes such as to support strategic developments and revenue budget support during 2024/25 and 2025/26. A detailed breakdown of these reserves is noted below:

Committed Reserves	Balance at 31-Mar-24 £000	Movement 2024/25 £000	Balance at 31-Mar-25 £000
Mental Health	1,036	(795)	241
Primary Care	1,858	75	1,933
Service Specific	1,452	(1,002)	450
Drug & Alcohol	559	367	926
Strategic Developments	1,756	242*	1,998
Revenue Budget Support	4,000	(1,950)	2,050
NHST – System Pressures	0	2,959	2,959
Other Staffing	363	(207)	156
<b>Total Committed Reserves</b>	<b>13,024</b>	<b>(2,311)</b>	<b>10,713</b>
Uncommitted Reserves	6,789	(5,767)*	1,022
<b>Total – General Fund Balances</b>	<b>17,813</b>	<b>(6,078)</b>	<b>11,735</b>

\*Movement of £2,000k from Uncommitted reserves to Strategic Developments - Approved August 2024, DIJB45-2024 included in 2024/25 Movement.

## 9. Related Party Transactions

The Dundee City Integration Joint Board has related party relationships with NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council. In particular the nature of the partnership means that the Dundee City Integration Joint Board may influence, or be influenced by, its partners. The following transactions and balances included in Dundee City Integration Joint Board's accounts are presented to provide additional information on the relationships. Dundee City Integration Joint Board is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence Dundee City Integration Joint Board or to be controlled or influenced by Dundee City Integration Joint Board. Related party relationships require to be disclosed where control exists, irrespective of whether there have been transactions between the related parties. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Dundee City Integration Joint Board may have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with Dundee City Integration Joint Board.

### Dundee City Integration Joint Board Members

Board members of Dundee City Integration Joint Board have direct control over the Board's financial and operating policies. The Dundee City Integration Joint Board membership is detailed on page 6 of these statements. Board members have the responsibility to adhere to a Code of Conduct, which requires them to declare an interest in matters that directly or

# Notes to the Financial Statements

indirectly may influence, or be thought to influence their judgement or decisions taken during the course of their work. In terms of any relevant parties, board members with declarations of interest did not take part in any discussion or decisions relating to transactions with these parties.

## Officers

Senior Officers have control over Dundee City Integration Joint Board's financial and operating policies. The total remuneration paid to senior officers is shown in the Remuneration Report. Officers have the responsibility to adhere to a Code of Conduct, which requires them to declare an interest in matters that directly or indirectly may influence, or be thought to influence their judgement or decisions taken during the course of their work. In terms of any relevant parties, officers with declarations of interest did not take part in any discussion or decisions relating to transactions with these parties.

## Key Management Personnel

The Non-Voting Board members employed by Dundee City Council and recharged to the Dundee City Integration Joint Board include the Chief Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. Details of the remuneration for these post-holders is provided in the Remuneration Report.

## Transactions with NHS Tayside

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
232,498	Funding Contributions received from the NHS Tayside Board	245,083
(205,797)	Net Expenditure on Services Provided by the NHS Tayside Board	(214,588)
<b>26,701</b>	<b>Net Transactions with NHS Tayside</b>	<b>30,495</b>

NHS Tayside did not charge for any support services provided in the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: nil)

## Balances with NHS Tayside

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
8,203	Debtor balances: Amounts due from the NHS Board	10,468
(22)	Creditor balances: Amounts due to the NHS Board	(131)
<b>8,180</b>	<b>Net Balance with the NHS Board</b>	<b>10,337</b>

## Transactions with Dundee City Council

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
104,333	Funding Contributions received from Dundee City Council	112,278

# Notes to the Financial Statements

(137,189)	Net Expenditure on Services Provided by Dundee City Council	(148,851)
<b>(32,856)</b>	<b>Net Transactions with Dundee City Council</b>	<b>(36,573)</b>

Dundee City Council did not charge for any support services provided in the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: nil).

The Net Expenditure on Services Provided by Dundee City Council figure includes IJB Operating Expenditure of £420k (2024: £407k).

## Balances with Dundee City Council

2023/24 £000	Description	2024/25 £000
9,675	Debtor balances: Amounts due from Dundee City Council	1,423
0	Creditor balances: Amounts due to Dundee City Council	0
<b>9,675</b>	<b>Net Balance with Dundee City Council</b>	<b>1,423</b>

## 10. Value Added Tax (VAT)

Dundee City IJB is not a taxable person and does not charge or recover VAT on its functions. The VAT treatment of expenditure in the Dundee City IJB's accounts depends on which of the partner agencies is providing the service as these are treated differently for VAT purposes. The services provided to Dundee City IJB by the Chief Officer are outside the scope of VAT as they are undertaken under a special legal regime.

## 11. Agency Income and Expenditure

On behalf of all Integration Joint Boards within the NHS Tayside area, the Dundee City Integration Joint Board acts as the lead manager for a variety of Community, Older People, Physical Disability, Mental Health and Learning Disability Services. It commissions services on behalf of the other Integration Joint Boards (Perth & Kinross and Angus) and reclaims the costs involved. The payments that are made on behalf of the other Integration Joint Boards, and the consequential reimbursement, are not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) since the Dundee City Integration Joint Board is not acting as principal in these transactions.

The amount of expenditure and income relating to the agency arrangement is shown below.

2023/24 (£000)	Description	2024/25 (£000)
16,932	Expenditure on Agency Services	18,221
(16,932)	Reimbursement for Agency Services	(18,221)
<b>0</b>	<b>Net Agency Expenditure Excluded from CIES</b>	<b>0</b>

## 12. Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

Dundee City Integration Joint Board has currently made no provisions. This does not prohibit Dundee City Integration Joint Board making provisions in the future and will where necessary

# Notes to the Financial Statements

consider the needs for a provision based on the merits of the incumbent circumstances at a relevant future point.

## Contingent Liability

As part of the NHS Scotland Agenda for Change pay deal for 2023/24 it was agreed to look at modernisation of staff terms and conditions. The three commitments were made –

- Implementation of protected learning time
- Review of the working week
- Review of Band 5 nursing profiles

NHS Circular PCS(AFC)2024/3 issued by SG in June 2024 gave clarity on the review of Band 5 nursing roles. To the extent that related costs can be accounted for with an accrual or provision, there remains an unquantifiable contingent liability associated with the Band 5 nursing review at the year end. There is no end date for applications, and data on the likely outcome of reviews is not yet available.

## **13. Accounting Standards that have been issued but not adopted**

There was no material impact on the Integration Joint Board of accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet adopted in the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounts in the United Kingdom.

# Independent Auditor's Report

## Independent Auditor's Report

### Independent auditor's report to the members of Dundee City Integration Joint Board and the Accounts Commission

#### Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

##### Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Dundee City Integration Joint Board for the year ended 31 March 2025 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the 2024/25 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the body as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2024/25 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

##### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed by the Accounts Commission on 3 April 2024. My period of appointment is four years, covering 2023/24 to 2026/27. I am independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the body. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

##### Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the

# Independent Auditor's Report

body's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the body's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the body's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the [Audit Scotland website](#).

## **Risks of material misstatement**

I report in my Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

## **Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer and Performance and Audit Committee for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the body's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the body's operations.

The Audit and Performance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 are significant in the context of the body;
- inquiring of the Chief Finance Officer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the body;

# Independent Auditor's Report

- inquiring of the Chief Finance Officer concerning Dundee City Integration Joint Board's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the body's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my auditor's report.

## Reporting on other requirements

### **Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited parts of the Remuneration Report**

I have audited the parts of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration Report have been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

### **Other information**

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

### **Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement**

# Independent Auditor's Report

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

## **Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

## **Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities**

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

## **Use of my report**

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Rachel Browne CPFA  
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Audit Scotland  
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