



Supported by:



National Conference

# The Future of Local Government Audit

Thursday 3rd November 2011, Westminster Studio, London SW1



Speakers include:

**Michael O'Higgins**  
Chairman,  
Audit Commission

**Vernon Soare**  
Executive Director,  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in  
England and Wales

**Patrick White**  
Director, Local Government Policy  
and Productivity  
Department for Communities and  
Local Government

**Clive Betts MP**  
Chair,  
Department for Communities and Local  
Government Select Committee

**Steve Freer**  
Chief Executive,  
CIPFA

**Jessica Crowe**  
Executive Director,  
Centre for Public Scrutiny



## Why you must attend this event:

- **Get an insider's briefing** from Michael O'Higgins, Chairman, Audit Commission, on what the future audit and inspection landscape will look like
- **What will this new era of auditing really mean for councils?** – 14 expert speakers share their insights, so you have a blueprint for financial transparency and controlling risk
- **Understand the key pointers for success** – hear best practice on regional successes and gain strategies and tactics to implement back in the office
- **Maximum learning value** – watch the conference again online! All delegates receive post-event access to watch speaker presentations via the Policy Review TV service, AND can download all conference papers

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles MP, has announced plans to disband the Audit Commission. What will this mean for councils and accountability? What will it mean for local government audit? How will the landscape change?

This conference and TV broadcast will provide you the opportunity to debate, discuss and explore the vital answers to these questions. Sector leaders and audit experts will explore best practice and provide vital solutions you'll find invaluable.

For more information please visit:

[www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275)

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See inside for details



# Agenda (subject to change)

09:00 Registration, refreshments and exhibition

## Session One:

 Available on policyreview.tv

### Setting the scene

- 09:30 Welcome and introduction from conference Chair  
**Michael Burton**, Editor, The MJ
- 09:35 Opening keynote address: the abolition of the audit and inspection regime- what next?  
**Michael O'Higgins**, Chairman, Audit Commission
- 09:50 Government guidance: feedback from the consultation  
**Patrick White**, Director, Local Government Policy and Productivity, Department for Communities and Local Government
- 10:05 Regulating the future of local public audit  
**Vernon Soare**, Executive Director, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- 10:20 Panel discussion: How can value be secured from outsourcing audit functions?  
*Hear from session speakers above*

10:40 Refreshments, networking and exhibition

## Session Two:

 Available on policyreview.tv

### Maintaining audit excellence

- 11:10 Keynote: Findings from the Select Committee: the scope of audit, competition and standards  
**Clive Betts MP**, Chair of the Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee
- 11:30 Accountability and self-regulation: linking financial audit with wider "scrutiny" processes  
**Jessica Crowe**, Executive Director, Centre for Public Scrutiny
- 11:50 Meeting the needs of local government: procuring external audit  
**Steve Freer**, Chief Executive, CIPFA
- 12:10 Case Study: the changing face of audit  
*Contribution by one of the leading audit firms*
- 12:30 Panel discussion:  
How can we ensure that the skills and experience of the current audit staff are not lost?  
How can councils offset some of the external audit costs by internal audit?  
Should central government facilitate external audit procurement by creating a select list?  
**Nigel Johnson**, Lead Public Sector Audit Partner, Deloitte LLP  
*To be joined by session speakers*

13:00 Buffet lunch, networking and exhibition

## Session Three:

### The future of audit

- 14:00 Welcome and introduction by afternoon Chair  
**Tony Travers**, Director of Research at the Greater London Group, London School of Economics
- 14:10 Afternoon keynote  
**Michael Whitehouse**, Chief Operating Officer, National Audit Office
- 14:35 Open public services: maintaining effective and nondisruptive transparency  
*Check website for speaker updates*
- 14:50 Panel discussion:  
Can the new proposed structure work?  
**Jon Roberts**, Public Sector Assurance Partner, Grant Thornton UK LLP  
*To be joined by session speakers*

15:10 Refreshments, networking and exhibition

## Session Four:

### Discussion groups

- 15:35 Delegates should choose to attend one seminar from the list below. Seminars are designed to be interactive and participatory in nature. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to maximum capacities.
- 1 How might changing the extent and focus of audits impact on local government  
**Ian Carruthers**, Policy and Technical Director, CIPFA
  - 2 Eradicating Duplicate Payments  
**Geoff Bail**, Director, BK Data Limited

16:30 Close of conference

Register online today:

[www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275)

Tel: 020 7324 4330 / Fax: 020 7490 8830

Watch Speaker Presentations Online!  
As a delegate you can watch the speakers' presentations and download conference papers online post-show.  
This extra service is provided free via Policy Review TV

## Purpose of the Conference:

### Specifically, attending this conference will enable you to:

- Explore what the abolition of the Audit Commission will mean for the future of local government audit
- Hear central Government guidance on 'what's next' for audit practice
- Discuss whether outsourcing audit work to the private sector will benefit local government professionals
- Discuss whether we will see new kinds of auditor services emerge
- Consider issues about rotating auditors
- Assess what the challenges ahead are for local government auditors
- Understand the impact of self-regulation to accountability and whether linking financial audit to wider scrutiny processes can benefit local government
- Hear best practice in maintaining and benefiting from financial transparency
- Discuss how local government can ensure that the skills and experience of the current audit staff are not lost
- Hear from the National Audit Office on key features of the future of local government audit
- Understand the needs of local government audit and finance in outsourced and diversified supply chains
- Discuss how audit facilities might support new forms of working, Big Society initiatives, and transparency
- Discuss how the new proposed structure might work and key pointers for success
- Benefit from hearing best practice on regional successes, good news stories and gain practical information to implement in your day-to-day role through interactive partnership seminars examining key issues on:
  - > Eradicating duplicate payments
  - > Determining the impact of focusing on a financial audit

## Who should attend:

### Local Government :

- Chief Financial Officers
- Auditors
- Heads of Internal Audit & Risks
- Heads of Asset Management
- Director of Finance
- Chief Executives
- Treasurers
- Corporate Directors
- Borough Secretaries
- Principal Accountants
- Heads of Strategic Finance
- Finance Officers
- Heads of Policy and Performance
- Directors of Finance and E-Gov
- Cabinet Members for Finance
- Section 151 Officers

### Private and independent sector :

- Heads of Business Management
- Senior Management Accountants
- Accountants
- Finance Directors
- Finance Consultants

## Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

This conference will attract a diverse audience of top level decision-makers and key policy professionals, from both the public and the private sector. Sponsoring or exhibiting at this event will ensure your organisation leadership positioning amongst this key target audience.

To find out more about the bespoke packages on offer please contact **Katie Wright** on **020 7960 6852** or e-mail **katie.wright@neilstewartassociates.co.uk**



## Can't attend? Time poor? Diary clash?

### Attend a regional satellite conference near you

#### Can't get away, can't afford the time or full cost? Need network feedback? Attend a regional satellite conference!

- See and hear all the speakers and interact remotely
- Receive all the back-up papers and research
- Network with your peers, benchmark your own work and make contacts for follow up
- Environmentally friendly option

Attending a satellite conference costs just **£195.00 + VAT** (£234.00). See the conference website for locations near you or complete the booking form.

#### For further information email

**paul.rushworth@policyreview.tv**

### Watch online

#### Keep up to date with the policy insight you need

- Broadcast exclusively on Policy Review TV - watch the conference live or later on-demand
- Fully interactive - watch live and submit questions, just like a delegate
- Ultimate conference reporting, watch the full online presentations after the event
- Your own expert video library to keep - ideal for management and staff briefing
- Unique insight into the choices and dilemmas faced by policy makers and managers
- Find out how your peers are solving the policy challenges you face
- You save on travel, cost and time

The costs of the live broadcast and access to the video archive are:

#### Individual licences

**£99 + VAT (£118.80)**

#### Group licences - per person

**1-2 viewers £99.00 + VAT (£118.80)**

**3-9 viewers £89.00 + VAT (£106.80)**

**10-19 viewers £79.00 + VAT (£94.80)**

**20-29 viewers £65.00 + VAT (£78.00)**

# The Future of Local Government Audit

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## To Register

Please photocopy this booking form for additional delegates.

Complete all relevant sections of this form and either:

**Fax:** 020 7490 8830

**Online:** [www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa275)

**Post:** Neil Stewart Associates Ltd, 10 Greycoat Place, Westminster, London SW1P 1SB

Alternatively call us on **020 7324 4330** or email us at **customer.services@neilstewartassociates.co.uk**

## Delegate Information

sa275

Brochure no.

WEB

Title (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof/Other)

Full Name

Position

Organisation

Sector:  Health  Social Care  Central/Regional Government  Local Government  Education and Skills  Commercial  
 Non Departmental Public Body / Association or Membership Organisation  3rd Sector Organisation  Criminal Justice

Email

Address

Postcode

Tel No.

Direct Line? (Yes/No)

Fax No.

Training Manager

Email

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions below

Signature

### HOW TO PAY Please tick the relevant box below

Invoice Please send an invoice to:

Purchase order number (if relevant)

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Please debit: £ \_\_\_\_\_ from Mastercard/Eurocard/Visa/Maestro/Delta

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date of card: \_\_\_\_\_

Maestro Issue No: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cardholder's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS Please indicate any additional requirements below



## Delegate Rates

Please select the relevant rate from the list below

### Full Rate -

Commercial Sector

£499.00 + VAT (£598.80) Register by 30 September

£549.00 + VAT (£658.80) Register by 15 October

£599.00 + VAT (£718.80) From 16 October

### Reduced Rate -

Central Government Departments and Agencies, Non Departmental Public Bodies, Local Authorities, other Public Sector Organisations, Universities and Colleges

£289.00 + VAT (£346.80) Register by 30 September

£339.00 + VAT (£406.80) Register by 15 October

£389.00 + VAT (£466.80) From 16 October

### Supported Rate -

Voluntary Organisations, Trade Unions

£140.00 + VAT (£168.00) Register by 30 September

£190.00 + VAT (£228.00) Register by 15 October

£240.00 + VAT (£288.00) From 16 October

The above fees include all day access to the event, available conference papers, buffet lunch and refreshments, for registered delegates only. Fees do not include travel costs or accommodation.

Shared places are not permitted.

## Seminar Selection

You may attend one seminar in Session Four. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please circle your choice below:

Session Four: 1 2

### Live viewing and on-demand access

Book online at [www.policyreview.tv](http://www.policyreview.tv) or register below

#### Individual and Group Licences

1-2 viewers @ £99 + VAT (£118.80) per person

3-9 viewers @ £89 + VAT (£106.80) per person

10-19 viewers @ £79 + VAT (£94.80) per person

20-29 viewers @ £65 + VAT (£78.00) per person

I would like to register \_\_\_\_\_ online viewers

@ £ \_\_\_\_\_ per person:

**TOTAL £ \_\_\_\_\_ + VAT = £ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please complete the delegate information section of this form for each viewer when registering your licence(s). You can do this by photocopying this form or sending a full list to [customer.services@policyreview.tv](mailto:customer.services@policyreview.tv)

### Satellite conference

£195.00 + VAT (£234.00)

Bristol  Leeds  St Helens  Wigan

### Terms and Conditions

This booking form constitutes a legally binding agreement. Payment must be received in full before the event. We are not responsible for the non-arrival of confirmation documents: if, by 7 days prior to the conference, you have not heard from us, contact us using the phone number on the brochure. All available conference material including documents, podcasts and in some case films are made available to delegates after the event therefore we do not accept cancellations, whole or in part. Substitutions will be accepted if notified in writing prior to the event, non-arrivals will be liable for the full fee.

All our conferences are recorded and the content is made available on [www.policyreview.tv](http://www.policyreview.tv). If you do not wish to be filmed, your voice recorded or your photograph taken please email [customer.services@neilstewartassociates.co.uk](mailto:customer.services@neilstewartassociates.co.uk) giving your name and the conference you will be attending.

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### Overseas delegates

Delegates from outside the UK who book to attend an NSA conference must send their remittance in time to clear funds no later than 2 weeks before a one day conference. Bookings from overseas delegates will be subject to the cancellation policy specified on the booking form.