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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Audit bodies join forces to drive value for money agenda**

The UK's five leading audit bodies have developed a suite of indicators to help public sector managers challenge and improve the value for money of their corporate services.

A joint report, published today by the Audit Commission, Audit Scotland, the National Audit Office, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, and the Wales Audit Office, includes five sets of indicators which allow organisations to assess the value for money performance of their:

- finance;
- human resources;
- information and communication technology;
- estates management; and
- procurement.

These services have been identified by the government as priority areas for increasing efficiency and releasing resources for use in delivering front line services.

Local authorities and central government departments across the UK are facing pressure to make significant efficiency savings in the coming years, alongside more effective service delivery. The indicators are therefore underpinned by a focus on better outcomes for service users as well as value for money.

The indicators have been designed to ensure that public bodies will be able not only to assess their own value for money performance but also compare their results against other public sector organisations everywhere in the UK.

In a joint foreword to the report, the five audit agency heads said: 'Our organisations work closely together on many issues, although much of this cooperation is not immediately visible. It is therefore a particular pleasure to be able to publish together the results of a project that we have successfully pursued as a joint venture, which we believe will enable public sector organisations to get better value for money from their corporate services.'

A report which includes the indicator sets is available at [www.public-audit-forum.gov.uk](http://www.public-audit-forum.gov.uk)

**Ends**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

*1. The Audit Commission is an independent body responsible for ensuring that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively, to achieve high-quality local services for the public. Our remit covers around 11,000 bodies in England, which between them spend more than £180 billion of public money each year. Our work covers local government, health, housing, community safety and fire and rescue services.*

*2. As an independent watchdog, we provide important information on the quality of public services. As a driving force for improvement in those services, we provide practical recommendations and spread best practice. As an independent auditor, we ensure that public services are good value for money and that public money is properly spent.*

*3. For further information about the Audit Commission, visit our website at [www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk).*

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