



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

The public sector delivery specialists

INTERNAL ASSURANCE TOOLKIT (IAT)

Accredited, proven, effective



Cumbria County Council has so far conducted four 'Mini Gateways' across our Children's and Adults Services directorates. The reviews are working really well and providing assurance and added value to some of our major programmes and projects, with minimal bureaucracy and time resources. This has created a range of benefits including savings in costs from the more efficient management of projects."

Cumbria County Council



“ Local Partnerships have been of great assistance in helping Bristol City Council adopt and use the Internal Assurance Toolkit. The peer review culture is now becoming embedded in our management of programmes and projects. To Date we have carried out over a dozen reviews. Three key outcomes for us are improved project and programme delivery, real benefits for Review Team Members in terms of personal development and improved sharing of good practice. All this is reducing the time necessary to deliver projects.”

Bristol City Council

Internal Assurance Toolkit (IAT)

Can you strengthen corporate governance?

Have you reduced the risk of nasty surprises, project failures, and increased the quality of work across the authority?

Will you provide increased transparency on the state of programmes and projects?

Did you embed a culture of continued improvement?

Are you increasing best practice within your authority?

If your answer is yes to some or all of the above, then your Authority should seriously consider joining the new Local Partnerships Internal Assurance Toolkit (IAT) community.

The toolkit is designed to be:

- ▶ Easy to use, yet robust enough to demonstrate it being an added value process
- ▶ Flexible, simple to use, free from unnecessary complexity and jargon
- ▶ Meet the basic requirements of the OGC accredited assurance
- ▶ Easily rolled out to other Public Sector Bodies, creating a common approach to internal reviews.

This toolkit will not be:

- ▶ An alternative to independent external assurance on high-risk projects or Assurance Reviews that have been mandated by Central Government Departments
- ▶ An alternative to good internal project management and governance.



The Internal assurance Toolkit (IAT) is a strategic approach to strengthen corporate governance, and robust decision making. It is a process designed to improve the rigour and discipline in procurement, commissioning, change management and contract management, particularly for projects/programmes of work that don't warrant an external review.

Local Partnerships (LP) has developed a flexible toolkit that can be adapted to be used by any authority and without adding unnecessary bureaucracy. The overall aim of the programme is to develop an assurance toolkit that can be used on projects either internally and/or in partnership with other Local Public Bodies.

These medium and low risk reviews complement the work LP undertakes nationally when carrying out high-risk reviews at the request of individual local authorities or via Government Departments that have mandated reviews for key projects.

This toolkit is being made available for all Local Public Bodies through Local Partnerships.

Local Partnerships will be available to provide on-going support to the Authority to develop assurance capabilities, including developing Review Team Leaders, and to ensure the toolkit is maintained to include lessons learned from other Authorities.

Development of products (bespoke documents)

- ▶ Explanation of Assurance and its value (local Context)
- ▶ Governance Structures and links to corporate processes
- ▶ Key milestones for Assurance (local Context)
- ▶ Training and Support
- ▶ Transformation and alternative models of delivery – Similar to Gateway 0
- ▶ PFI Contract Management Reviews.

IAT Finance and Cost model

LP is offering Authorities a range of charging options for accessing the IAT to suit different needs. LP understands that some Authorities may wish to test the suitability of the offer before committing and for them a flexible Pay as you go model will be most appropriate.

Other Authorities may wish to opt for the full service from the outset and choose the one payment or 3 year payment plan options.

The three payment options available are:

1. A discounted one off charge of £15,000 excluding vat and disbursements to provide support over the first 3 years of introducing the IAT and subsequent annual charge of £2500 to provide ongoing support
2. A flat rate annual charge for 3 years of £6,000 excluding vat and disbursements and subsequent annual charge of £2500 to provide ongoing support to establish the IAT
3. A "pay-as-you-go" arrangement allowing authorities to pick the LP support required to set up the service.

There is flexibility for authorities to migrate from Pay-as-you-go to Options 1 and 2 in the first year.



About Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships is owned by HM Treasury and the Local Government Association providing commercial and delivery expertise to the public sector, helping translate policy into delivery through the design and implementation of infrastructure projects and programmes.

Our mission is to give trusted and professional support to local public bodies to improve their ability to source and deliver high-quality, cost-effective public services and infrastructure.

Operating at a local level, we work shoulder-to-shoulder with public bodies to develop and deliver innovative solutions to emerging problems.

This is achieved by working alongside local public bodies to focus on bringing improvements to areas such as:

- ▶ sourcing and commissioning skills
- ▶ programme and project management capabilities
- ▶ procurement, negotiation and contract management capacity and
- ▶ delivery, funding and partnering abilities.



Local Partnerships is jointly owned by



Local Partnerships, the public sector delivery specialists

Local Partnerships, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
020 7187 7379 | LPenquiries@local.gov.uk | [@LP_localgov](https://twitter.com/LP_localgov) | localpartnerships.org.uk