

Summary

According to the Local Government Act, the Local Authority Audit Committee is tasked with assessing the extent to which the operating and financial targets set by the local council have been achieved in the municipality and the local authority corporation and whether or not the activities are arranged in a cost-effective and appropriate manner. Here are some highlights from the assessment results for 2017.

Long-term homelessness has decreased, but homelessness overall has increased and grown more varied.

The City divisions have not drafted a joint plan for reducing homelessness despite the City Strategy requiring them to do so, and a housing rehabilitation programme for psychiatric and substance abuse services has not been approved. The sufficiency of housing counselling activities in relation to the growing number of clients must be ensured.

Students' need for support in vocational education and training has grown.

Apprenticeship support services for young people and immigrants should be strengthened. The establishment of the Helsinki Skills Centre has improved immigrants' access to education and training.

Children and young people's recreational opportunities have been increased and diversified.

Children and young people's opinions have been heard especially in regard to school club activities and services for young people. Communication concerning recreational opportunities should be improved. The resources for and the free-of-charge nature of children and young people's sports services must be secured and the use of school facilities for recreational activities should be improved.

The Sports Division has successfully achieved its strategic objectives.

There is still room for improvement in regard to the even distribution of sports venues between the different districts of Helsinki. Schools on the Move and similar activities should be introduced to upper secondary level educational institutions as well.

End-of-life care expertise is at a good level at Helsinki's Suursuo Hospital and the home hospital.

The end-of-life care expertise of doctors and nurses and their co-operation with patients and relatives should be developed in home care, service housing units, service housing and facilities.

The occupational well-being of City personnel improved overall during the strategy term.

Incentives are needed for hiring people with partial work ability and supporting coping at work.

Major investments could be better controlled by investing more effort in project planning.

Instances in which the costs of construction projects are exceeded are quite rare. Delays are a more common problem. The City's competitiveness as regards the wages paid to employees in construction contracting positions should be improved.

The Divisions' procurement organisations should be strengthened and harmonised.

The assessment of procurements included a survey, which revealed that higher level supervisors were generally more confident than lower level supervisors that ethical principles are adhered to in procurements. Supervisor training courses should highlight internal control as a topic and make ethical principles a part of procurement training. Employees should have the opportunity to bring up suspected malpractice.

Stricter disqualification regulation should be taken into account in ownership steering.

In appointing board members, it should be ensured in advance that the carrying out of the office or confidential post's duties are not hindered by potential disqualification. Based on an assessment of Heka's ownership steering, it would be better for the clarity of ownership steering if the City group's executives did not serve as heads of subsidiary communities.