

mSCOA implementation oversight Contents

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mSCOA implementation oversight Background

- The effective implementation of *m*SCOA at a municipal level depends largely on the efficiency of the oversight structures in place to oversee and report on the implementation.
- In a mSCOA environment, these governance structures include:
 - o The Project Steering Committee
 - o Audit value chain
 - o Municipal councillors
 - o National and Provincial Treasuries
- Governance in a mSCOA environment involves the oversight and alignment of



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mSCOA implementation oversight mSCOA Project Steering Committee

- Each municipality should establish a *m*SCOA Project Steering Committee (**PSC**) that considers the progress and challenges with *m*SCOA implementation at the municipality. This oversight committee must:
 - Meet at least quarterly, unless the municipality is experiencing implementation challenges in which case they should meet more often;
 - Must be chaired by the Accounting Officer or his/her delegated representative; and
 - Must consist of representatives from all business units as mSCOA is organisation and not financial reform.
- Feedback on *m*SCOA implementation and issues raised at the PSC meeting should be reported on at regular Executive Committee (**EXCO**) meetings and *m*SCOA should be a standing item on the agenda of the EXCO and Council.

ROLE OF THE AUDIT VALUE CHAIN IN **mSCOA**

mSCOA implementation oversight Legislative requirement

- Section 62(1)(c) of the MFMA requires that that the accounting officer of a municipality must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the municipality has and maintains and effective, efficient and transparent systems of internal audit.
- MFMA Section 165(1) further provides that each municipality and each municipal entity must have an internal audit unit.
- The internal audit unit of a municipality or municipal entity must:
 - Prepare a risk-based plan and internal audit program for each year: and
 - Advise the accounting officer and report to the audit committee on the implementation of the internal audit plan and matters relating to internal audit; internal controls; accounting procedures and practices; risk and risk management; performance management; loss control; and compliance with any applicable legislation.
- A municipality must address any issues raised by the Auditor-General in an audit

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mSCOA implementation oversight Role of the Audit Value Chain in mSCOA

- The Audit Value Chain consist of:
 - The internal audit function;
 - The risk management function;
 - An audit committee that serves as an independent advisory body to the council on financial accountability and oversight; and
 - External audit process by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA).
- The two questions most commonly asked of the Audit Value Chain by senior management, Council and other stakeholders are:
 - Are we doing the right things?
 - Are we doing them in the right way?

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mSCOA implementation oversight Role of the Audit Value Chain in mSCOA

Internal Audit

- Review policies, procedures and controls to ensure it is aligned to mSCOA;
- Ensure that due diligence and project management were followed when financial system was changed;
- Ensure that the ICT environment is maintained to ensure continued mSCOA compliance;
- Ensure that proper contract management between vendors and municipalities was maintained and that corrective action have been taken if milestones have not been met:
- Review if planning, budgeting, transacting and reporting is being done directly in and from the financial system;
- Provide assurance on the credibility of the data on the financial system that are submitted to management, council and the National Treasury Upload portal; and
- Evaluate and report on the adequacy and effectiveness of *m*SCOA project risk process.

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mSCOA implementation oversight Role of the Audit Value Chain in mSCOA

Risk Management

Manage
 mSCOA
 project risk as
 part of the
 normal risk
 management
 process.

Audit Committee

- Oversee and provide advise on risk management matters;
- Ensure that a comprehensive risk management framework is in place; and
- e Ensure that a sound and effective approach has been followed in developing a strategic risk management plan for the implementation of mSCOA.

External Audit

- Data conversion will be a risk during system conversion;
- mSCOA does not impact on GRAP reporting requirements – it enables it; and
- mSCOA will not have an impact on audit opinion unless the data on the financial system is not credible and the audit trail is eliminated during the system conversion or system re-implementation.

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mSCOA implementation oversight What is pro-active auditing?

- Pro-active auditing is a technique to identify and manage risks and challenging processes in a timely manner.
- A municipality does not have to wait for new systems to be implemented before Internal Audit provides insight on whether the resulting controls will be adequate.
- The types of pro-active audits are:
 - Continuous audit ongoing risk and control assessments, enabled by technology. This
 type of audit significantly increases efficiency and must be coordinated with
 continuous monitoring programs in the organization and management's oversight
 functions.
 - Probity audits an independent scrutiny of a procurement process to determine if the prescribed probity requirements have been adhered to. This type of audit encourages better accountability, integrity and compliance with processes.
 - Spot audits an examination of an activity or process to make sure that rules are being adhered to, without warning the people involved that this is going to happen. Spot check reviews give assurance to management on the adherence to policies.
- The use of these pro-active audits will depend on the risks and the maturity of the organization.

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mSCOA implementation oversight Oversight of Council

• The Executive Mayor must:

- Provide political guidance and leadership over the fiscal and financial affairs, budget process and priorities of the municipality (including the implementation of mSCOA); and
- Monitor and oversee the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer in exercising their responsibilities in terms of the MFMA (MFMA legislation directs the mSCOA Regulations).

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mSCOA implementation oversight Oversight of Council

- **Council must** oversee the implementation of all MFMA reforms, including *m*SCOA, for their respective municipality and its entities by ensuring that :
- A mSCOA Steering Committee is in place and functional;
- The mSCOA steering committee is reporting all pertinent issues to Council;
- A mSCOA Road Map is implemented effectively and milestones are reached within the set time frames;
- Resources are availed to ensure that the municipality has acquired, upgraded and maintain the hardware, software and licenses required to be and remain mSCOA compliant;
- The correct procedures were followed to change the financial system where applicable;
- · Contractual obligations of service providers are managed properly; and
- Budgets, monthly reporting and the AFS are prepared in terms of mSCOA and directly from the financial system.

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mSCOA implementation oversight Oversight role of National and Provincial Treasuries

As part of their Constitutional oversight role and as the custodian of the MFMA, the National and Provincial Treasuries must oversee the implementation of *m*SCOA by all municipalities.

Towards this end, National and Provincial Treasuries must:

- Follow-up on the submission of mSCOA data strings within the legislated timeframes;
- Analysed the credibility of the data strings submitted and inform municipalities of errors in the recording of mSCOA data strings as required in terms of the mSCOA chart and seven mSCOA segments;
- Provide guidance, training and support to municipalities to correct their mSCOA data;

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mSCOA implementation oversight Oversight role of National and Provincial Treasuries

- Take action against non-complying municipalities (including issuing of non-compliance letters, meeting with municipalities to discuss non-compliance, withholding conditional grants and equitable share until compliance has been reached);
- Verify system functionality in terms of the minimum business processes and system specifications;
- Verify if municipalities are budgeting, transacting and reporting directly in and from the financial system;
- Verified that municipalities are using the modules available on the financial system and that 3rd party sub-systems are integrating to the core financial system; and
- Consider and issue annual chart changes.

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Municipal Money

- Municipal Money is a website that was developed by the National Treasury to share extensive municipal financial data over several years with the public
- It was developed to inform citizens how their respective municipality spend their money to deliver services.
- The information is updated quarterly and the mSCOA data strings are used for this purpose
- The website can be accessed at https://municipalmoney.gov.za/
- All information relevant to the municipality can be accessed in the site:
 - o Audit outcomes
 - Cash balance
 - o Cash coverage
 - $\circ\,$ Spending of the: (operational and capital budget, repairs and maintenance)
 - o Fruitless and wasteful expenditure
 - o Income of the municipality
 - o Ratios (Current ratio, liquidity ratio, debtors' collection ratio)
 - o Household bills
 - o Resources























