



Media contact: Rachel Edwards  
Mobile: 0439 261 366  
Email: [rachel.edwards@audit.wa.gov.au](mailto:rachel.edwards@audit.wa.gov.au)

9 May 2018

## **Auditor General finds local governments generally managing credit cards well, but identifies some room for improvement**

In his first local government audit report, *Controls Over Corporate Credit Cards*, Auditor General Colin Murphy found that while some areas could be done better, local governments mostly had satisfactory controls in place.

The audit assessed if 8 local governments – large and small, regional and metropolitan – had effective controls over the use of corporate credit cards and if there was adequate independent review of credit card use, including CEOs' usage.

Mr Murphy said the potential for improper or unauthorised use of credit cards meant that local governments needed to have appropriate controls and be continually vigilant against misuse.

'Corporate credit cards offer significant benefits to local governments through reduced costs and streamlined business processes,' he said.

'But like all financial processes and tools, they can be misused if not properly managed.

'All the local governments we looked at need to improve aspects of their policies and/or practices for managing credit cards.

'Importantly though, we found no inappropriate credit card transactions.'

Mr Murphy said given the huge diversity among local governments, the intent of the audit was not to compare, but to provide examples of better practice as well as opportunities for improvement.

'The local governments were accepting of our findings and were open to change to address the issues we identified.

'I encourage all local governments to assess their own management of corporate credit cards against the findings and recommendations of this report and to promptly act where required.

'Parliament gave the Auditor General the mandate to audit local government to enhance accountability and transparency across the sector.

'For this to be a success we need to continue on the path we started with this audit - that is working together to recognise good practice as well as identify areas where things can and should be done better, in the public interest.'

The Auditor General's report, *Controls Over Corporate Credit Cards* (Report 7 – May 2018), is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at [www.audit.wa.gov.au](http://www.audit.wa.gov.au)

ENDS

