

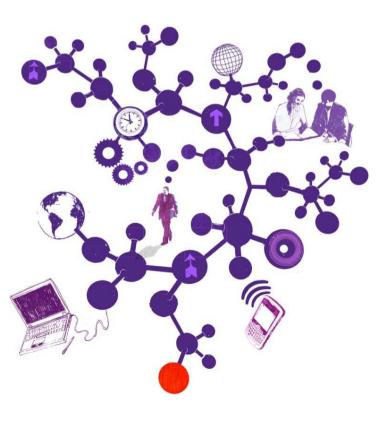
# The Audit Plan for Ashford Borough Council

Year ending 31 March 2016 03 March 2016

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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Council or any weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.



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3 March 2016

Dear Members of the Audit Committee

### Audit Plan for Ashford Borough Council for the year ending 31 March 2016

This Audit Plan sets out for the benefit of those charged with governance Audit Committee, an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260. This document is to help you understand the consequences of our work, discuss issues of risk and the concept of materiality with us, and identify any areas where you may request us to undertake additional procedures. It also helps us gain a better understanding of the Council and your environment. The contents of the Plan have been discussed with management.

We are required to perform our audit in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2015.

Our responsibilities under the Code are to:

- give an opinion on the Council's financial statements

- satisfy ourselves the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

As auditors we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Olive Engagement Lead

#### Chartered Accountants

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# Understanding your business

In planning our audit we need to understand the challenges and opportunities the Council is facing. We set out a summary of our understanding below.

		Challenges/opportunities		
<ol> <li>Autumn Statement 2015 and financial health</li> <li>The Chancellor proposed that local government would have greater control over its finances, although this was accompanied by a 24% reduction in central government funding to local government over 5 years.</li> <li>Despite the increased ownership, the financial health of the sector is likely to become increasingly challenging. The Councils' Medium Term Financial Plan identifies a budget gap, before savings</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>2. Housing</li> <li>The Autumn Statement also included a number of announcements intended to increase the availability and affordability of housing.</li> <li>In particular, the reduction in council housing rents and changes to right to buy will have a significant impact on Councils' housing revenue account business plans.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>3. Delivery of major projects</li> <li>The Council continues to focus on delivering a number of projects</li> <li>On going projects which include the development of Elwick Place, new junction off the M20 and the new projects undertaken recently Park Mall &amp; Stanhope Hotel developments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4. Management restructure</li> <li>During the current year, a number of senior officers will be moving on or retiring leading to a risk of Council knowledge and experience.</li> <li>Succession planning and management restructure plans have been put in place</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>5. Earlier closedown of accounts</li> <li>The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require councils to bring forward the approval and audit of financial statements to 31 May and 31 July respectively by the 2017/18 financial year.</li> </ul>
proposals, from 2017/18.	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
		Our response		
<ul> <li>We will consider the Council's plans for addressing its financial position as part of our work to reach our VFM conclusion.</li> </ul>	• We will develop our understanding of the Council's business plan to inform our work on the value for money conclusion.	• We will discuss your plans in these areas through our regular meetings with senior management and those charged with governance to inform our review of the financial statements and value for money conclusion.	• We will keep a watching brief on the managed changes to inform our work on the value for money conclusion.	<ul> <li>We will work with you to identify areas of your accounts production where you can learn from good practice in other authorities.</li> <li>We aim to complete all substantive work in our audit of your financial statements by 31 July 2016 as a 'dry run'</li> </ul>

# Developments and other requirements relevant to your audit

In planning our audit we also consider the impact of key developments in the sector and take account of national audit requirements as set out in the Code of Audit Practice and associated guidance.

### **Developments and other requirements**

#### 1. Fair value accounting

- A new accounting standard on fair value (IFRS 13) has been adopted and applies for the first time in 2015/16.
- This will have a particular impact on the valuation of surplus assets within property, plant and equipment which are now required to be valued at fair value in line with IFRS 13 rather than the existing use value of the asset.
- Investment property assets are required to be carried at fair value as in previous years.
- There are a number of additional disclosure requirements of IFRS 13.

#### 2. Corporate governance

- The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require local authorities to produce a Narrative Statement, which reports on your financial performance and use of resources in the year, and replaces the explanatory foreword.
- You are required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of your financial statements.

- 3. Joint arrangements & Local Authority Trading Companies (LATC)
- The Council is involved in a business rates pool for the first time in the current year
- The Council operates 2 LATCs which they need to account for.

#### 4. Other requirements

- The Council is required to submit a Whole of Government accounts pack.
- The Council completes grant claims and returns on which audit certification is required

### Our response

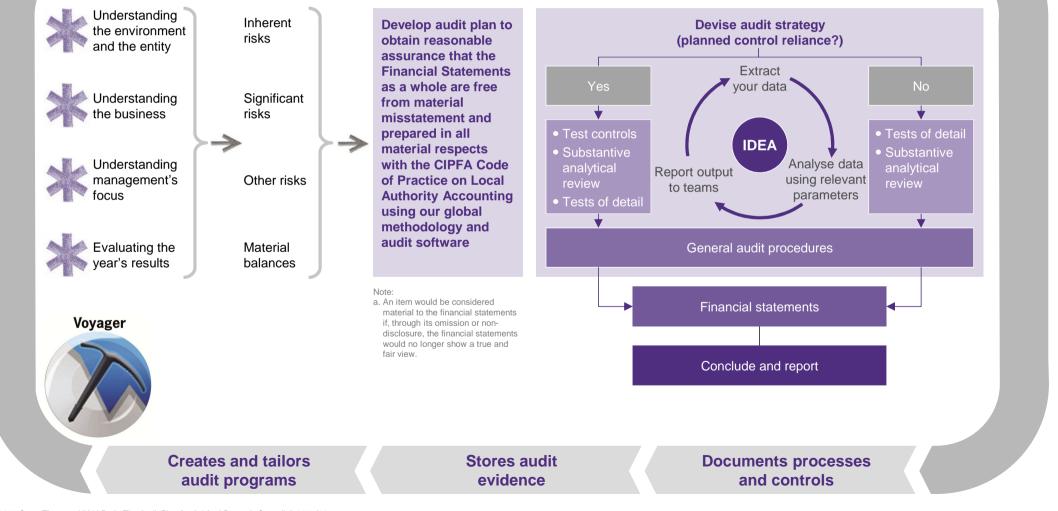
- We will keep the Council informed of changes to the financial reporting requirements for 2015/16 through ongoing discussions and invitations to our technical update workshops.
- We will discuss this with you at an early stage, including reviewing the basis of valuation of your surplus assets and investment property assets to ensure they are valued on the correct basis.
- We will review your draft financial statements to ensure you have complied with the disclosure requirements of IFRS 13.

- We will review your Narrative Statement to ensure it reflects the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice when this is updated, and make recommendations for improvement.
- We will review your arrangements for producing the AGS and consider whether it is consistent with our knowledge of the Council and the requirements of CIPFA guidance.
- We will review your proposals for accounting for these arrangements against the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.
- We will carry out work on the WGA pack in accordance with requirements
- We will certify the housing benefit subsidy claim in accordance with the requirements specified by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd. This company will take over the Audit Commission's responsibilities for housing benefit grant certification from 1 April 2015.

# Our audit approach

Global audit technology

### Ensures compliance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs)



### Materiality

In performing our audit, we apply the concept of materiality, following the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) (ISA) 320: Materiality in planning and performing an audit.

The standard states that 'misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements'.

As is usual in public sector entities, we have determined materiality for the statements as a whole as a proportion of the gross revenue expenditure of the Council. For purposes of planning the audit we have determined overall materiality to be  $\pounds$ 1,169,000 (being 1.8% of gross revenue expenditure). We will consider whether this level is appropriate during the course of the audit and will advise you if we revise this.

Under ISA 450, auditors also set an amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial and would not need to be accumulated or reported to those charged with governance because we would not expect that the accumulation of such amounts would have a material effect on the financial statements. "Trivial" matters are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any criteria of size, nature or circumstances. We have defined the amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial to be  $f_{58,000}$ .

ISA 320 also requires auditors to determine separate, lower, materiality levels where there are 'particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users'. We have identified the following items where separate materiality levels are appropriate.

Balance/transaction/disclosure	Explanation	Materiality level
Cash and cash equivalents	As all transactions made by the Council affect the balance and it is therefore considered to be material by nature. As this is public money we will look at getting additional assurance.	£500k
Disclosures of officers' remuneration, salary bandings and exit packages in notes to the statements	Due to public interest in these disclosures and the statutory requirement for them to be made.	£10k
Disclosure of auditors' remuneration in notes to the statements	Due to public interest in these disclosures and the statutory requirement for them to be made.	£10k

# Significant risks identified

"Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgmental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, either due to size or nature, and that therefore occur infrequently. Judgmental matters may include the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty" (ISA 315). In this section we outline the significant risks of material misstatement which we have identified. There are two presumed significant risks which are applicable to all audits under auditing standards (International Standards on Auditing - ISAs) which are listed below:

Significant risk	Description	Substantive audit procedures
The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions	Under ISA 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.	Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at Ashford Borough Council , we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:
	This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition.	<ul> <li>there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition</li> <li>opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited</li> <li>the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Ashford Borough Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.</li> </ul>
Management over-ride of controls	Under ISA 240 it is presumed that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities.	<ul> <li>Work completed at interim:</li> <li>Assessment of internal controls in place relating to the posting of journal entries</li> <li>Testing of journal entries for months 1 - 9</li> <li>Reviewed unusual significant transactions</li> </ul> Further work planned: <ul> <li>Review of accounting estimates, judgments and decisions made by management</li> <li>Testing of journal entries for months 10 - 12</li> <li>Review of unusual significant transactions</li> </ul>

# Other risks identified

"The auditor should evaluate the design and determine the implementation of the entity's controls, including relevant control activities, over those risks for which, in the auditor's judgment, it is not possible or practicable to reduce the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level to an acceptably low level with audit evidence obtained only from substantive procedures" (ISA (UK & Ireland) 315).

In this section we outline the other risks of material misstatement which we have identified as a result of our planning.

Other risk	Description	Audit approach
Valuation of property, plant & equipment	The Council gets its valuers to perform a revaluation on its assets on a 5 year rolling plan and those that aren't revalued have a desktop revaluation performed. This represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements. (Revaluation measurements not correct)	<ul> <li>Work completed to date:</li> <li>Review of the competence, expertise and objectivity of any management experts used.</li> <li>Written to valuation experts to determine the instructions issued and the scope of their work</li> <li>Discussions with valuer about the basis on which the valuation is carried out and challenge of the key assumptions.</li> <li>Further work planned:</li> <li>Review and challenge of the information used by the valuer to ensure it is robust and consistent with our understanding.</li> <li>Testing of revaluations made during the year to ensure they are input correctly into the Council's asset register</li> <li>Evaluation of the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value.</li> </ul>
Valuation of pension fund net liability	The Council's pension fund asset and liability as reflected in its balance sheet represent significant estimates in the financial statements. (Valuation of the Pension Fund assets and Liabilities have been incorrectly valued)	<ul> <li>Work planned:</li> <li>We will identify the controls put in place by management to ensure that the pension fund liability is not materially misstated. We will also assess whether these controls were implemented as expected and whether they are sufficient to mitigate the risk of material misstatement.</li> <li>We will review the competence, expertise and objectivity of the actuary who carried out your pension fund valuation. We will gain an understanding of the basis on which the valuation is carried out.</li> <li>We will undertake procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made.</li> <li>We will review the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in notes to the financial statements with the actuarial report from your actuary.</li> </ul>

### Other risks identified (continued)

Other risks	Description	Audit approach
Operating expenses	Creditors understated or not recorded in the correct period (Operating expenses understated)	<ul> <li>Work already performed : <ul> <li>We have identified the system controls and walked through the operating expense system</li> <li>We have performed early substantive testing on a sample of operating expenses from Month 1-9</li> </ul> </li> <li>Work planned: <ul> <li>Testing the reconciliation of operating expenditure recorded in the general ledger to the subsidiary systems and interfaces</li> <li>Cut off testing to assess whether transactions are recorded in the correct period</li> <li>Substantive testing of operating expenditure payments for months 10-12</li> <li>Substantive testing of year end payable balances</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Employee remuneration	Employee remuneration accruals and expenses are understated	<ul> <li>Procedures to gain assurance that material goods and services received prior to the year are correctly accrued</li> <li>Work already performed :</li> <li>We have identified the system controls and walked through the payroll system</li> </ul>
	(Remuneration expenses not correct)	<ul> <li>We have begun the substantive testing of payroll payments</li> <li>Work planned: <ul> <li>Testing the reconciliation of payroll expenditure recorded in the general ledger to the subsidiary systems and interfaces</li> <li>Trend analysis and risk identification for monthly payroll costs to confirm completeness of payroll transactions and appropriate cut-off</li> <li>Complete substantive testing of payroll payments, assessing whether payments are made in accordance with the individual's contract of employment and deductions are correctly calculated</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Other risks identified (continued)

### **Other material balances and transactions**

Under International Standards on Auditing, "irrespective of the assessed risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall design and perform substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance and disclosure". All other material balances and transaction streams will therefore be audited. However, the procedures will not be as extensive as the procedures adopted for the risks identified in the previous section but will include

- Heritage assets
- Welfare Expenditure
- Investments (long term and short term)
- Cash and cash equivalents
- Borrowing and other liabilities (long term and short term)
- Provisions
- Usable and unusable reserves
- Movement in Reserves Statement and associated notes
- Statement of cash flows and associated notes
- Financing and investment income and expenditure
- Taxation and non-specific grants

- Segmental reporting note
- Officers' remuneration note
- Leases note
- Related party transactions note
- Capital expenditure and capital financing note
- Financial instruments note
- Housing Revenue Account and associated notes
- Collection Fund and associated notes

### **Other audit responsibilities**

- We will undertake work to satisfy ourselves that disclosures made in the Annual Governance Statement are in line with CIPFA/SOLACE guidance and consistent with our knowledge of the Council.
- We will read the Narrative Statement and check that it is consistent with the statements on which we give an opinion and disclosures are in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.
- We will carry out work on consolidation schedules for the Whole of Government Accounts process in accordance with NAO instructions to auditors.
- We will give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the accounts and consider and decide upon objections received in relation to the accounts

### Value for Money

### Background

The Code requires us to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the Value for Money (VfM) conclusion.

The NAO issued its guidance for auditors on value for money work in November 2015. The guidance states that for local government bodies, auditors are required to give a conclusion on whether the Council has put proper arrangements in place.

The NAO guidance identifies one single criterion for auditors to evaluate:

In all significant respects, the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

This is supported by three sub-criteria as set out below:

Sub-criteria	Detail
Informed decision making	<ul> <li>Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of good governance</li> <li>Understanding and using appropriate cost and performance information to support informed decision making and performance management</li> <li>Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities</li> <li>Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control</li> </ul>
Sustainable resource deployment	<ul> <li>Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions</li> <li>Managing assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities</li> <li>Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities.</li> </ul>
Working with partners and other third parties	<ul> <li>Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities</li> <li>Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities</li> <li>Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.</li> </ul>

### Value for Money (continued)

#### **Risk assessment**

We have carried out an initial risk assessment based on the NAO's guidance. In our initial risk assessment, we considered:

- our cumulative knowledge of the Council, including work performed in previous years in respect of the VfM conclusion and the opinion on the financial statements.
- the findings of other inspectorates and review agencies,
- any illustrative significant risks identified and communicated by the NAO in its Supporting Information.
- any other evidence which we consider necessary to conclude on your arrangements.

The significant risks identified as part of the initial risk assessment are set out on the following page. We have set out our planned work for 2015/16 to address these risks to meet our duties in respect of the VfM conclusion.

### Reporting

The results of our VfM audit work and the key messages arising will be reported in our Audit Findings Report and in the Annual Audit Letter.

We will include our conclusion as part of our report on your financial statements which we will give by 30 September 2016.

# Value for money (continued)

We set out below the significant risks we have identified as a result of our initial risk assessment and the work we propose to address these risks.

Significant risk	Link to sub-criteria	Work proposed to address
<b>Commercial development</b> The Council is involved in a number of new commercial activities such as park mall and international house. The Council's business programme includes a number of key projects and investments, which are significant both in scale and financial terms.	This links to the Council's arrangements for planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities, Managing assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities and using appropriate cost and performance information to support informed decision making.	We will review the project management and risk assurance frameworks established by the Council in respect of the more significant projects, to establish how the Council is identifying, managing and monitoring these risks.
<b>Changes to the management team</b> There are a number of changes in senior officers this year including CE, DoF, Head of IT and Head of Culture and Environment. The Council has put in place succession plans to address the loss of Council knowledge and experience.	This links to the Council's arrangements for planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities and managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control.	We will review the Council's succession plans to establish how the Council is identifying, managing and monitoring the impact of changes to the management team.

### Reporting

The results of our VfM audit work and the key messages arising will be reported in our Audit Findings Report and Annual Audit Letter. We will include our conclusion as part of our report on your financial statements.

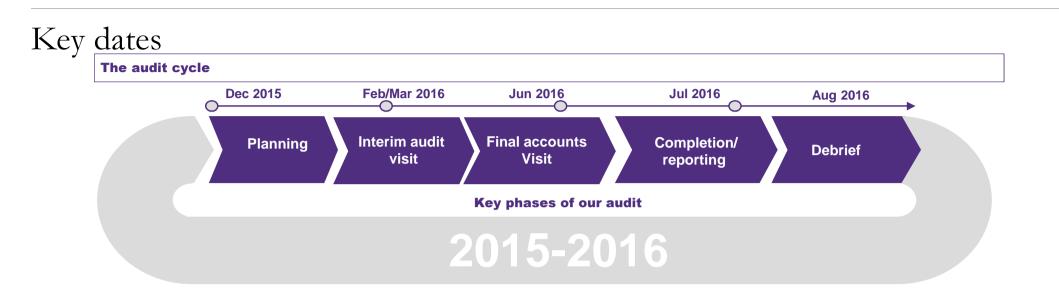
# Results of interim audit work

The findings of our interim audit work, and the impact of our findings on the accounts audit approach, are summarised in the table below:

	Work performed	Conclusion
Internal audit	We have completed a high level review of internal audit's overall arrangements. Our work has not identified any issues which we wish to bring to your attention. We have also reviewed internal audit's work on the Council's key financial systems to date. We have not identified any significant weaknesses impacting on our responsibilities.	Overall, we have concluded that the internal audit service provides an independent and satisfactory service to the Council and that internal audit work contributes to an effective internal control environment. Our review of internal audit work has not identified any weaknesses which impact on our audit approach.
Walkthrough testing	<ul> <li>We have completed walkthrough tests of the Council's controls operating in areas where we consider that there is a risk of material misstatement to the financial statements, namely:</li> <li>Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment (to be completed)</li> <li>Valuation of pension fund net liability (to be completed)</li> <li>Operating Expense</li> <li>Employee remunerations</li> <li>Our work has not identified any issues which we wish to bring to your attention. Internal controls have been implemented by the Council in accordance with our documented understanding.</li> </ul>	At this stage out work has not identified any weaknesses which impact on our audit approach. Valuations of Property, Plant and Equipment and pension fund net liability are yet to be completed at the time of planning and we will update you on this once they have been finalised.
Entity level controls	<ul> <li>We have obtained an understanding of the overall control environment relevant to the preparation of the financial statements including:</li> <li>Communication and enforcement of integrity and ethical values</li> <li>Commitment to competence</li> <li>Participation by those charged with governance</li> <li>Management's philosophy and operating style</li> <li>Organisational structure</li> <li>Assignment of authority and responsibility</li> <li>Human resource policies and practices</li> </ul>	Our work has identified no material weaknesses which are likely to adversely impact on the Council's financial statements

# Results of interim audit work (continued)

	Work performed	Conclusion
Review of information technology controls	Our information systems specialist are planned to perform a high level review of the general IT control environment during March 2016, as part of the overall review of the internal controls system.	We will report back on this once they have completed their work.
Journal entry controls	We have reviewed the Council's journal entry policies and procedures as part of determining our journal entry testing strategy and have not identified any material weaknesses which are likely to adversely impact on the Council's control environment or financial statements. We will undertake detailed testing on journal transactions, by extracting 'unusual' entries for further review.	Our work to date has identified no material weaknesses which are likely to adversely impact on the Council's financial statements.



Date	Activity
December 2015	Planning
February/March 2016	Interim site visit
March 2016	Presentation of audit plan to Audit Committee
June 2016	Year end fieldwork
July 2016	Audit findings clearance meeting with Director of Finance
July 2016	Report audit findings to those charged with governance (Audit Committee)
July 2016	Sign financial statements opinion

# Fees and independence

### Fees

	£
Council audit	60,311
Housing Benefit grant certification	8,112
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	68,423

### **Fees for other services**

Service	Fees £
<ul><li>Audit related services:</li><li>Certification of housing pooling capital receipts return</li></ul>	tbc*
Non-audit services	nil

### Fees for other services

Fees for other services reflect those agreed at the time of issuing our Audit Plan. Any changes will be reported in our Audit Findings Report and Annual Audit Letter. We are expecting the DCLG will require assurance on Pooling of Capital Receipts returns over  $\pounds$ 125,000 in line with 2014/15. \*Once this is confirmed we will agree the scope and fee of this engagement.

### **Independence and ethics**

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards and therefore we confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Full details of all fees charged for audit and non-audit services will be included in our Audit Findings Report at the conclusion of the audit.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards.

### **Our fee assumptions include:**

- Supporting schedules to all figures in the accounts are supplied by the agreed dates and in accordance with the agreed upon information request list.
- The scope of the audit, and the Council and its activities, have not changed significantly.
- The Council will make available management and accounting staff to help us locate information and to provide explanations.
- The accounts presented for audit are materially accurate, supporting working papers and evidence agree to the accounts, and all audit queries are resolved promptly.

### **Grant certification**

- Our fees for grant certification cover only housing benefit subsidy certification, which falls under the remit of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited
- Fees in respect of other grant work, such as reasonable assurance reports, are shown under 'Fees for other services'.

# Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) (ISA) 260, as well as other ISAs, prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table opposite.

This document, The Audit Plan, outlines our audit strategy and plan to deliver the audit, while The Audit Findings Report will be issued prior to approval of the financial statements and will present key issues and other matters arising from the audit, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

We will communicate any adverse or unexpected findings affecting the audit on a timely basis, either informally or via a report to the Council.

### **Respective responsibilities**

This plan has been prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (http://www.psaa.co.uk/appointing-auditors/terms-of-appointment/)

We have been appointed as the Council's independent external auditors by the Audit Commission, the body responsible for appointing external auditors to local public bodies in England at the time of our appointment. As external auditors, we have a broad remit covering finance and governance matters.

Our annual work programme is set in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code') issued by the NAO and includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work (<u>https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/about-code/</u>). Our work considers the Council's key risks when reaching our conclusions under the Code.

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. We have considered how the Council is fulfilling these responsibilities.

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	~	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit. Form, timing and expected general content of communications	√	
Views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting and financial reporting practices, significant matters and issues arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		✓
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	~	✓
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence. Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged. Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence	✓	✓
Material weaknesses in internal control identified during the audit		✓
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or others which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		✓
Non compliance with laws and regulations		~
Expected modifications to the auditor's report, or emphasis of matter		✓
Uncorrected misstatements		✓
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		✓
Significant matters in relation to going concern		✓



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