

Audit and Governance Committee Update for Exeter City Council

Year ended 31 March 2014

Committee Date: 3 December 2014

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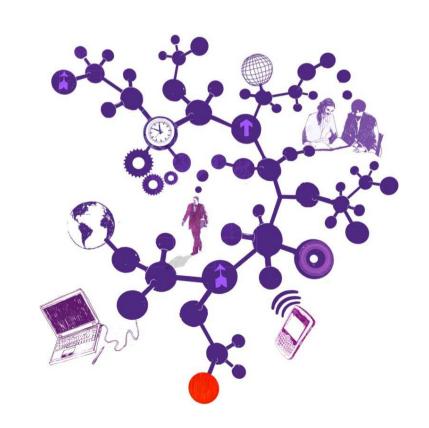
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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect your business 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.

Contents

Section	Page
Introduction	4
Progress at 3 November 2014	Ę

Introduction

This paper provides the Audit and Governance Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

Members of the Audit and Governance Committee can find further useful material on our website, www.grant-thornton.co.uk, where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector.

Progress at 3 November 2014

Work	Due By	Complete	Comments
Our interim fieldwork visit includes: updating our review of the Council's control environment updating our understanding of financial systems review of Internal Audit reports on core financial systems early work on emerging accounting issues early substantive testing initial risk assessment to support the Value for Money conclusion.	30 April 2014	Yes	Our interim audit work was completed in April 2014. We reported our findings to the Audit and Governance Committee on 25 June 2014.
2013-14 Accounts Audit Plan We are required to issue a detailed accounts audit plan to the Council setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Council's 2013-14 financial statements.	30 June 2014	Yes	We presented our 2013/14 Accounts Audit Plan to the Audit and Governance Committee on 25 June 2014.

Progress at 3 November 2014

Work	Due By	Complete	Comments
2013-14 final accounts audit Including:	30 September 2014	oer Yes	We reported the outcome of our financial statements audit to the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 September 2014.
 audit of the 2013-14 financial statements detailed work to support the VFM conclusion 			We issued an unqualified opinion on your financial statements on 26 September 2014.
 proposed opinion on the Council's accounts proposed Value for Money conclusion Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) opinion 			The deadline for the WGA submission was 3 October 2014. We submitted our assurance statement on 26 September 2014.
 2013-14 VFM Conclusion We are required to assess whether Exeter City Council has proper arrangements in place for: securing financial resilience challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness 	30 September 2014	Yes	We reported the outcome of our VFM Conclusion work to the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 September 2014. We issued an unqualified VFM Conclusion on 26 September 2014.
 2013-14 certification work This work is expected to cover: Housing benefits. Housing capital receipts. We are not required to certify the Council's non domestic rates return for 2013/14. 	30 November 2014	At the time of writing (3 November 2014) this was not yet due	We presented our certification plan to the September 2014 Audit and Governance Committee. We have completed the certification of the housing capital receipts return and issued an unqualified audit report. Our work on the Council's Housing Benefits return is in progress and we will provide an update to the Audit and Governance Committee on 3 December 2014.

Progress at 3 November 2014

Work	Due By	Complete	Comments
2013-14 Annual Audit Letter	31 October 2014	Yes	Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the findings of our audit work in the year.
			This was agreed with the Council before being submitted to the Audit Commission.
			The Annual Audit Letter will be published on the Council's website and the Audit Commission's website.
2014-15 Audit	N/A	N/A	Looking ahead to 2014/15, we expect to commence our planning in January 2015. We will agree dates for our visits with your finance team.
			We will present our audit plan to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee once our audit planning has been completed.



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