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# Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction	4
Progress at 3 November 2014	5

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# 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](http://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
<p><b>Interim accounts audit</b></p> <p>Our interim fieldwork visit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updating our review of the Council's control environment</li> <li>• updating our understanding of financial systems</li> <li>• review of Internal Audit reports on core financial systems</li> <li>• early work on emerging accounting issues</li> <li>• early substantive testing</li> <li>• initial risk assessment to support the Value for Money conclusion.</li> </ul>	30 April 2014	Yes	<p>Our interim audit work was completed in April 2014.</p> <p>We reported our findings to the Audit and Governance Committee on 25 June 2014.</p>
<p><b>2013-14 Accounts Audit Plan</b></p> <p>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.</p>	30 June 2014	Yes	<p>We presented our 2013/14 Accounts Audit Plan to the Audit and Governance Committee on 25 June 2014.</p>

# Progress at 3 November 2014

Work	Due By	Complete	Comments
<p><b>2013-14 final accounts audit</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audit of the 2013-14 financial statements</li> <li>• detailed work to support the VFM conclusion</li> <li>• proposed opinion on the Council's accounts</li> <li>• proposed Value for Money conclusion</li> <li>• Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) opinion</li> </ul>	30 September 2014	Yes	<p>We reported the outcome of our financial statements audit to the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 September 2014.</p> <p>We issued an unqualified opinion on your financial statements on 26 September 2014.</p> <p>The deadline for the WGA submission was 3 October 2014. We submitted our assurance statement on 26 September 2014.</p>
<p><b>2013-14 VFM Conclusion</b></p> <p>We are required to assess whether Exeter City Council has proper arrangements in place for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• securing financial resilience</li> <li>• challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness</li> </ul>	30 September 2014	Yes	<p>We reported the outcome of our VFM Conclusion work to the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 September 2014.</p> <p>We issued an unqualified VFM Conclusion on 26 September 2014.</p>
<p><b>2013-14 certification work</b></p> <p>This work is expected to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing benefits.</li> <li>• Housing capital receipts.</li> </ul> <p>We are not required to certify the Council's non domestic rates return for 2013/14.</p>	30 November 2014	At the time of writing (3 November 2014) this was not yet due	<p>We presented our certification plan to the September 2014 Audit and Governance Committee.</p> <p>We have completed the certification of the housing capital receipts return and issued an unqualified audit report.</p> <p>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.</p>

# Progress at 3 November 2014

Work	Due By	Complete	Comments
<b>2013-14 Annual Audit Letter</b>	31 October 2014	Yes	<p>Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the findings of our audit work in the year.</p> <p>This was agreed with the Council before being submitted to the Audit Commission.</p> <p>The Annual Audit Letter will be published on the Council's website and the Audit Commission's website.</p>
<b>2014-15 Audit</b>	N/A	N/A	<p>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.</p> <p>We will present our audit plan to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee once our audit planning has been completed.</p>



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