

The Annual Audit Letter for Watford Borough Council

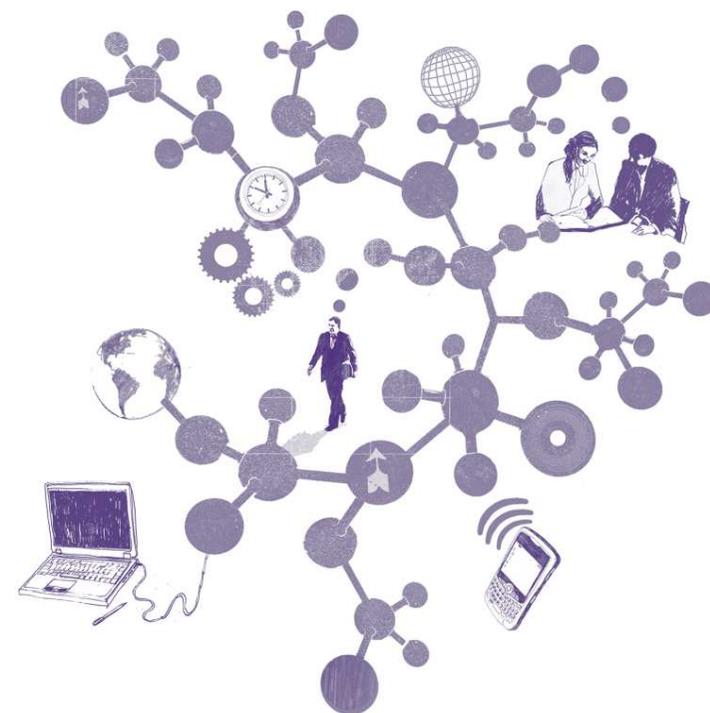
Year ended 31 March 2015

October 2015

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Key messages

Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at Watford Borough Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public. Our annual work programme, which includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work, has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on June 2015 and was conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and other guidance issued by the Audit Commission and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Financial statements audit (including audit opinion)	<p>We reported our findings arising from the audit of the financial statements in our Audit Findings Report on 28 September 2015 to the Audit Committee. The key messages reported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The draft financial statements presented for audit by 30 June should be the Council's final position and be supported by a complete suite of working papers at the start of the audit. We received the final statement of accounts on 30 September 2015.• The Council should ensure that all asset valuations reflected in the financial statements are based on the latest valuation reports. <p>We issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2014/15 financial statements on 1 October 2015, one day after the deadline set by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Our opinion confirms that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Council</p>
Value for Money (VfM) conclusion	<p>We issued an unqualified VfM conclusion for 2014/15 on 1 October 2015.</p> <p>On the basis of our work, and having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, we are satisfied that in all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2015.</p>

Key messages continued

Certification of housing benefit grant claim	We have yet to complete our work on the Council's 2014/15 housing benefit grant claim, the results of which will be reported to the December audit committee
Audit fee	Our fee for 2014/15 has yet to be finalised, the results of which will be reported to the December audit committee. Further detail is included within appendix A.

Appendix A: Reports issued and fees

We confirm below the fees charged for the audit and non-audit services.

Fees for audit services

	Per Audit plan £	Actual fees £
Council audit	68,400	TBC
Housing benefit grant certification fee	12,600	TBC
Total audit fees	81,000	TBC

Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	June 2015
Audit Findings Report	September 2015
Certification Report	TBC
Annual Audit Letter	October 2015



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