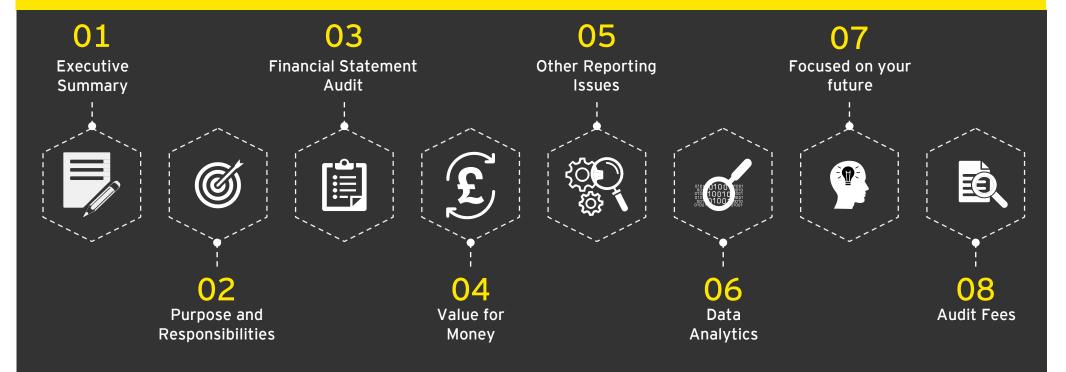


Contents



Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) have issued a 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the PSAA website (www.psaa.co.uk)

The Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas.

The 'Terms of Appointment (updated 23 February 2017)' issued by PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This Annual Audit Letter is prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities. It is addressed to the Members of the audited body, and is prepared for their sole use. We, as appointed auditor, take no responsibility to any third party.

Our Complaints Procedure - If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, you may take the issue up with your usual partner or director contact. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Steve Varley, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute. We can provide further information on how you may contact our professional institute.



Executive Summary

We are required to issue an annual audit letter to London Borough of Hillingdon (the Council) following completion of our audit procedures for the year ended 31 March 2018. Below are the results and conclusions on the significant areas of the audit process.

Area of Work	Conclusion		
Opinion on the Council's and Pension Fund's:	Unqualified - the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and Pension Fund as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended.		
► Financial statements			
► Consistency of other information published with the financial statements	Other information published with the financial statements was consistent with the Annual Accounts.		
Concluding on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness	We concluded that you have put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.		

Area of Work	Conclusion
Reports by exception:	
► Consistency of Governance Statement	The Governance Statement was consistent with our understanding of the Council.
► Public interest report	We had no matters to report in the public interest.
 Written recommendations to the Council, which should be copied to the Secretary of State 	We had no matters to report.
► Other actions taken in relation to our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014	We had no matters to report.

Area of Work	Conclusion
Reporting to the National Audit Office (NAO) on our review of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts return (WGA).	We had no matters to report



As a result of the above we have also:

Area of Work	Conclusion		
Issued a report to those charged with governance of the Council communicating significant findings resulting from our audit.	Our Audit Results Report on the Pension Fund was issued on 09 July 2018 and discussed at the Pensions Committee meeting on 18 July 2018 and also at the Audit Committee meeting on 26 July 2018. The Audit Results Report for the main audit was issued on 16 July 2018 and presented at the Audit Committee meeting on 26 July 2018.		
Issued a certificate that we have completed the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office's 2015	We did not issue our certificate with the opinion and value for money conclusion as we had not completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack which was due by 31 August 2018.		
Code of Audit Practice.	We completed this work on 4 August 2018 and there were no issues identified. The audit certificate was issued on 23 August 2018.		

In November 2018 we will also issue a report to those charged with governance of the Council summarising the certification work we have undertaken.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council and Pension Fund's staff for their assistance during the course of our work.

Maria Grindley
Associate Partner
For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP



The Purpose of this Letter

The purpose of this annual audit letter is to communicate to Members and external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from our work, which we consider should be brought to the attention of the Council.

We have already reported the detailed findings from our audit work in our 2017/18 Audit Results Report to the 26 July Audit Committee, representing those charged with governance. We do not repeat those detailed findings in this letter. The matters reported here are the most significant for the Council.

Responsibilities of the Appointed Auditor

Our 2017/18 audit work has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on 11 April 2018 and is conducted in accordance with the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), and other guidance issued by the National Audit Office.

As auditors we are responsible for:

- Expressing an opinion:
 - ▶ On the 2017/18 financial statements, including the pension fund; and
 - ▶ On the consistency of other information published with the financial statements.
- ► Forming a conclusion on the arrangements the Council has to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- Reporting by exception:
 - ▶ If the annual governance statement is misleading or not consistent with our understanding of the Council;
 - ▶ Any significant matters that are in the public interest;
 - ▶ Any written recommendations to the Council, which should be copied to the Secretary of State; and
 - ▶ If we have discharged our duties and responsibilities as established by thy Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Code of Audit Practice.

Alongside our work on the financial statements, we also review and report to the National Audit Office (NAO) on you Whole of Government Accounts return. The extent of our review and the nature of our report are specified by the NAO. We have completed our work on the WGA return with no significant issues noted.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for preparing and publishing its statement of accounts accompanied by an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). In the AGS, the Council reports publicly each year on how far it complies with its own code of governance, including how it has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in year, and any changes planned in the coming period.

The Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.



Key Issues

The Council's Statement of Accounts is an important tool for the Council to show how it has used public money and how it can demonstrate its financial management and financial health.

We audited the Council and Pension Fund's Statement of Accounts in line with the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), and other guidance issued by the National Audit Office and issued an unqualified audit report on 26 July 2018.

Our detailed findings were reported to the 26 July 2018 Audit Committee.

The key issues identified as part of our audit were as follows:

Significant Risk

Misstatements due to fraud or error

The financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.

Work completed and Conclusion

We obtained a full list of journals posted to the general ledger during the year, and analysed these journals using criteria we set to identify any unusual journal types or amounts. We then tested a sample of journals that met our criteria and tested these to supporting documentation.

We considered accounting estimates most susceptible to bias. These estimates include for example Property, Plant and Equipment estimates.

We evaluated the business rationale for any significant unusual transactions.

We did not identify any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override.

We did not identify any instances of inappropriate judgements being applied.

We did not identify any other transactions during our audit which appeared unusual or outside the Council's normal course of business

The key issues identified as part of our audit were as follows: (cont'd)

Significant Risk	Conclusion	
Risk of fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition	Our testing did not identify any material misstatements from revenue and expenditure	
Auditing standards also required us to presume that there is a risk that revenue and expanditure may be misstated due to improper recognition or manipulation	recognition. Overall our audit work did not identify any material issues or unusual transactions to indicate	
We respond to this risk by reviewing and testing material revenue and expenditure streams and revenue cut-off at the year end.	any misreporting of the Authority's financial position.	
The risk is focused on significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear unusual given our understanding of the entity and its environment and other information obtained during the audit.		
We have identified the following significant transactions which we consider present a risk of revenue and expenditure recognition:		
- Minimum Revenue Position (MRP);		
- Capital Financing Requirement (CFR);		
Revenue and Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute; and		
Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) additions.		



Areas of Audit Focus

Other areas of audit focus

In our Audit Planning Report, we identified other areas of the audit, that were not classified as significant risks, but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures and therefore may be key audit matters we will include in our audit report.

What is the risk/area of focus?

Valuation of Land and Buildings

Land and buildings is one of the most significant balances in the Council's Balance Sheet. The valuation of land and buildings is complex and is subject to a number of assumptions and judgements. A small movement in these assumptions can have a material impact on the financial statements.

Pension Liability Valuation

The Local Council Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the Council to make extensive disclosures within its financial statements regarding its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by London Borough of Hillingdon Pension Fund.

The Council's pension fund deficit is a material estimated balance and the Code requires that this liability be disclosed on the Council's balance sheet. At 31 March 2018 this totalled £525 m.

The information disclosed is based on the IAS 19 report issued by the actuary to the London Borough of Hillingdon. Accounting for these schemes involves significant estimation and judgement and therefore management engages an actuary to undertake the calculations on their behalf.

ISAs (UK and Ireland) 500 and 540 require us to undertake procedures on the use of management experts and the assumptions underlying fair value estimates.

What did we do?

We have:

- Reviewed the data sent to, and the report produced by, the Council's valuer;
- Challenged the assumptions used by the Council's valuer by reference to external evidence and our EY valuation specialists; and
- Tested the journals for the valuation adjustments to confirm that they have been accurately processed in the financial statements.

Conclusion: We completed our work on this area and identified no issues that we needed to bring to the attention of the Audit Committee

We have:

- Liaised with the auditors of London Borough of Hillingdon Pension Fund, to obtain assurances over the information supplied to the actuary in relation to Council's scheme members, this identified not issues with the information provided to the actuary;
- Assessed the work of the LGPS Pension Fund actuary (Hymans Robertson) including the assumptions they used by relying on the work of PWC - Consulting Actuaries commissioned by National Audit Office for all Local Government sector auditors, and considered any relevant reviews by the EY actuarial team; and
- Reviewed and tested the accounting entries and disclosures made within the Council's financial statements in relation to IAS19.

Conclusion: We concluded our work in this area and identified no material issues. We reported one unadjusted audit difference of approx. £1.8 m in respect of assets, this was due to a timing issue on the estimation of asset valuation and was not material to the financial statements.

Our application of materiality

When establishing our overall audit strategy, we determined a magnitude of uncorrected misstatements that we judged would be material for the financial statements as a whole.

Item	Thresholds applied
Planning materiality	We determined planning materiality to be £14.75 m (2016/17: £14.34 m), which is 2% of Gross Revenue Expenditure reported in the accounts adjusted for other items of expenditure which sit below the line.
	We consider Gross Revenue Expenditure to be one of the principal considerations for stakeholders in assessing the financial performance of the Council.
Reporting threshold	We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to the Committee all audit differences in excess of £0.74 m (2016/17: £0.72 m)

We also identified the following areas where misstatement at a level lower than our overall materiality level might influence the reader. For these areas we developed an audit strategy specific to these areas. The areas identified and audit strategy applied include:

- ▶ Remuneration disclosures including any severance payments, exit packages and termination benefits; and
- ► Related party transactions.

We evaluate any uncorrected misstatements against both the quantitative measures of materiality discussed above and in light of other relevant qualitative considerations.

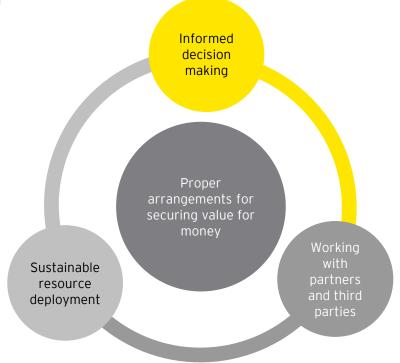


£ Value for Money

We are required to consider whether the Council has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources. This is known as our value for money conclusion.

Proper arrangements are defined by statutory guidance issued by the National Audit Office. They comprise your arrangements to:

- ► Take informed decisions;
- ▶ Deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and
- ► Work with partners and other third parties.



We did not identify any significant risks in relation to these criteria.

We have performed the procedures outlined in our audit plan. We did not identify any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. We therefore issued an unqualified value for money conclusion on 26 July 2018.





Whole of Government Accounts

We performed the procedures required by the National Audit Office on the accuracy of the consolidation pack prepared by the Council for Whole of Government Accounts purposes. We had no issues to report.

Annual Governance Statement

We are required to consider the completeness of disclosures in the Council's annual governance statement, identify any inconsistencies with the other information of which we are aware from our work, and consider whether it is misleading. We completed this work and did not identify any areas of concern.

Report in the Public Interest

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to consider whether, in the public interest, to report on any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit in order for it to be considered by the Council or brought to the attention of the public.

We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a report in the public interest.

Written Recommendations

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to designate any audit recommendation as one that requires the Council to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response.

We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a written recommendation.



Other Reporting Issues (cont'd)

Objections Received

We did not receive any formal objections to the 2017/18 financial statements from members of the public. We did consider some correspondence from a member of the public.

Other Powers and Duties

We identified no issues during our audit that required us to use our additional powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

ndependence

We communicated our assessment of independence in our Audit Results Report to the Audit Committee on 26 July 2018. In our professional judgement the firm is independent and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff has not been compromised within the meaning regulatory and professional requirements.

Control Themes and Observations

As part of our work, we obtained an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, we are required to communicate to you significant deficiencies in internal control identified during our audit.

We have adopted a fully substantive approach and have therefore not tested the operation of controls.

Our audit did not identify any controls issues to bring to the attention of the Audit Committee.





Use of Data Analytics in the Audit

Data analytics - supporting our work on revenue recognition and management override

Analytics Driven Audit

Data analytics

We used our data analysers to enable us to capture entire populations of your financial data. These analysers:

- ► Help identify specific exceptions and anomalies which can then be the focus of our substantive audit tests; and
- Give greater likelihood of identifying errors than traditional, random sampling techniques.

In 2017/18, our use of these analysers in the Council's audit included testing journal entries and employee expenses, to identify and focus our testing on those entries we deem to have the highest inherent risk to the audit.

We capture the data through our formal data requests and the data transfer takes place on a secured EY website. These are in line with our EY data protection policies which are designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of business and personal information.

Journal Entry Analysis

We obtain downloads of all financial ledger transactions posted in the year. We perform completeness analysis over the data, reconciling the sum of transactions to the movement in the trial balances and financial statements to ensure we have captured all data. Our analysers then review and sort transactions, allowing us to more effectively identify and test journals that we consider to be higher risk, as identified in our audit planning report.

Payroll Analysis

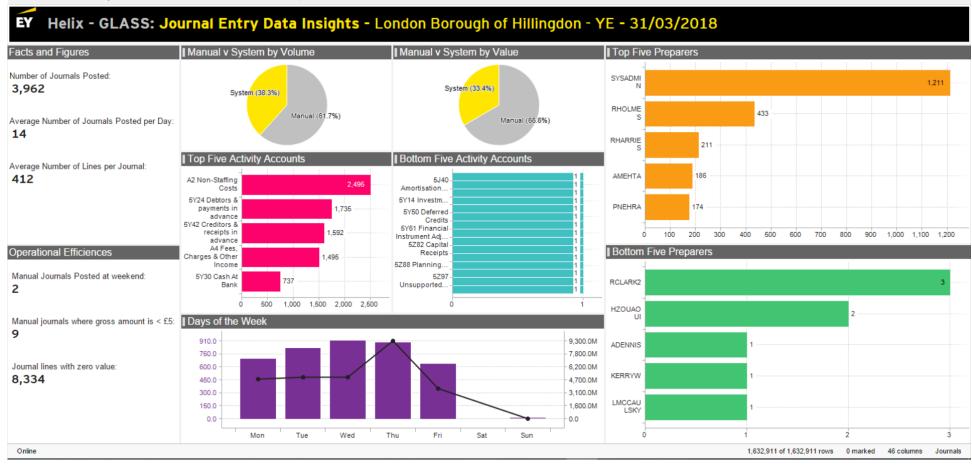
We also use our analysers in our payroll testing. We obtain all payroll transactions posted in the year from the payroll system and perform completeness analysis over the data, including reconciling the total amount to the General Ledger trial balance. We then analyse the data against a number of specifically designed procedures. These include analysis of payroll costs by month to identify any variances from established expectations, as well as more detailed transactional interrogation.



Journal Entry Data Insights

The graphic outlined below summarises the journal population for 2017/18. We review journals by certain risk based criteria to focus on higher risk transactions, such as journals posted manually by management, those posted around the year-end, those with unusual debit and credit relationships, and those posted by individuals we would not expect to be entering transactions.

The purpose of this approach is to provide a more effective, risk focused approach to auditing journal entries, minimising the burden of compliance on management by minimising randomly selected samples. We can also shared this information with management to provide additional insight and value from our audit procedures.



Journal Entry Testing

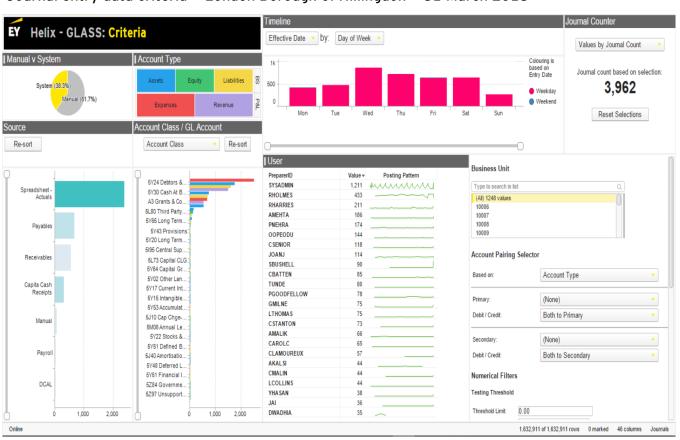
What is the risk?

In line with ISA 240 we are required to test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

What judgements are we focused on?

Using our analysers we are able to take a risk based approach to identify journals with a higher risk of management override, as outlined in our audit planning report.

Journal entry data criteria - London Borough of Hillingdon - 31 March 2018



What did we do?

We obtained general ledger journal data for the period and have used our analysers to identify characteristics typically associated with inappropriate journal entries or adjustments, and journals entries that are subject to a higher risk of management override.

We then performed tests on the journals identified to determine if they were appropriate and reasonable.

What are our conclusions?

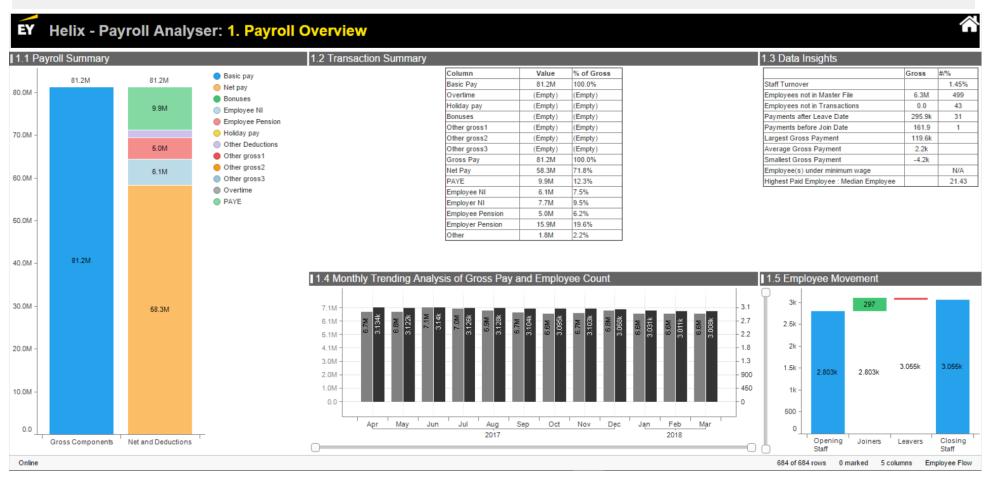
We isolated a sub set of journals for further investigation and obtained supporting evidence to verify the posting of these transactions and concluded that they were appropriately stated.



Data Analytics

Payroll Analyser Insights

The graphic outlined below summarises the payroll data for 2017/18. We review transactions for payroll at a more granular level, which allows us to identify items with a higher likelihood of containing material misstatements or to identify unusual patterns within a population of data and to design tests of details. This allows us to provide a more effective and risk focused audit on payroll, improving efficiency for both audit and the management as we reduce the need for evidence support for larger random sample.

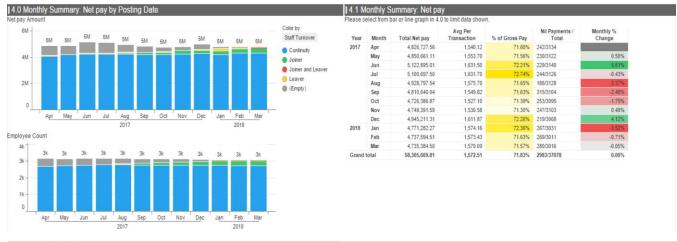


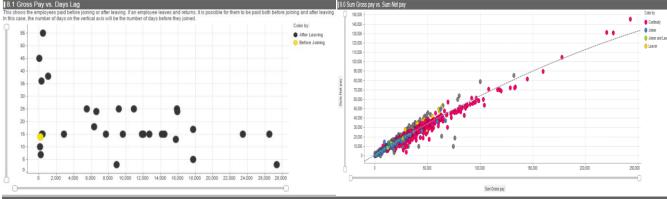
Payroll Testing

What judgements are we focused on?

Using our analysers we are able to identify anomalies in the payroll data which allow us to focus our testing and enquires over unusual or unexpected transactions.

Payroll Data - London Borough of Hillingdon - 31 March 2018





What did we do?

We obtained payroll data for the period and have used our analysers to identify unusual payments based on expectations of average pay per designation, date inconsistencies where payments made to individuals after they have left the organisation or before they have joined and payments made in the year that appears anomalous compare to average monthly payments.

We then tested the anomalies to determine if they were appropriate and reasonable.

What are our conclusions?

We isolated a sub set of anomalies for further investigation and obtained supporting evidence to verify the posting of these transactions and concluded that they were appropriately stated.





Focused on your future

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom introduces the application of new accounting standards in future years. The impact on the Council is summarised in the table below.

Standard	Issue	Impact		
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments	Applicable for local authority accounts from the 2018/19 financial year and will change:	Although the Code has now been issued, providing guidance on the application of the standard, along with other provisional information		
	 How financial assets are classified and measured; 	issued by CIPFA on the approach to adopting IFRS 9, until the Guidance Notes are issued and any statutory overrides are		
	 How the impairment of financial assets are calculated; and 	confirmed there remains some uncertainty. However, what is clear		
	► The disclosure requirements for financial assets.	is that the Council will have to:		
	There are transitional arrangements within the standard and the 2018/19	 Reclassify existing financial instrument assets 		
	Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities has now been issued, providing guidance on the application of IFRS 9. In advance of the Guidance	 Re-measure and recalculate potential impairments of those assets; and 		
	Notes being issued, CIPFA have issued some provisional information providing detail on the impact on local authority accounting of IFRS 9, however the key outstanding issue is whether any accounting statutory overrides will be introduced to mitigate any impact.	 Prepare additional disclosure notes for material items. 		
IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts	Applicable for local authority accounts from the 2018/19 financial year. This new standard deals with accounting for all contracts with customers except:	As with IFRS 9, some provisional information on the approach to adopting IFRS 15 has been issued by CIPFA in advance of the		
with Customers	► Leases;	Guidance Notes. Now that the Code has been issued, initial views have been confirmed; that due to the revenue streams of Local		
	► Financial instruments;	Authorities the impact of this standard is likely to be limited.		
	► Insurance contracts; and	The standard is far more likely to impact on Local Authority Trading		
	For local authorities; Council Tax and NDR income.	Companies who will have material revenue streams arising from contracts with customers. The Council will need to consider the		
	The key requirements of the standard cover the identification of performance obligations under customer contracts and the linking of income to the meeting of those performance obligations.	impact of this on their own group accounts when that trading company is consolidated.		
	Now that the 2018/19 Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities has been issued it is becoming clear what the impact on local authority accounting will be. As the vast majority of revenue streams of Local Authorities fall outside the scope of IFRS 15, the impact of this standard is likely to be limited.			



Focused on your future (cont'd)

Standard	Issue	Impact
IFRS 16 Leases	It is currently proposed that IFRS 16 will be applicable for local authority accounts from the 2019/20 financial year. Whilst the definition of a lease remains similar to the current leasing standard; IAS 17, for local authorities who lease a large number of assets the new	However, what is clear is that the Council will need to undertake a
	standard will have a significant impact, with nearly all current leases being included on the balance sheet. There are transitional arrangements within the standard and although the 2019/20 Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities has yet to be issued, CIPFA have issued some limited provisional information which begins to clarify what the impact on local authority accounting will be. Whether any accounting statutory overrides will be introduced to mitigate any impact remains an outstanding issue.	detailed exercise to identify all of its leases and capture the relevant information for them. The Council must therefore ensure that all lease arrangements are fully documented.



Audit Fees

Our fee for 2017/18 is in line with the scale fee set by the PSAA and reported in our 11 April 2018 Audit Plans

Description £ £ £ £ £ Total Audit Fee - Code work 158,941* 157,268 157,268 158,712 Total Pension Fund Audit Fee - Code work 21,666* 21,000 21,000 23,285 Total Fee 180,607 178,268 178,268 181,997		Final Fee 2017/18	Planned Fee 2017/18	Scale Fee 2017/18	Final Fee 2016/17
Total Pension Fund Audit Fee - Code work 21,666* 21,000 21,000 23,285	Description	£	£	٤	£
	Total Audit Fee - Code work	158,941*	157,268	157,268	158,712
Total Fee 180.607 178.268 178.268 181.997	Total Pension Fund Audit Fee - Code work	21,666*	21,000	21,000	23,285
21.22	Total Fee	180,607	178,268	178,268	181,997

We confirm we have not yet undertaken any non-audit work outside of the PSAA's requirements in 2017/18. We will discuss with officers regarding the completion of the Teacher's Pension and Housing Capital Receipts Returns for 2017/18. Both of these returns are outside of the PSAA's requirements and we completed the returns in 2016/17 with a combined fee of £15,000. We will update the Audit Committee at a later date regarding the outcomes of that work and relevant fees should officers wish for us to also complete the 2017/18 returns.

^{*} Additional fees are in respect of significant risks and also in respect of correspondence with a member of the public. These fees will be submitted to PSAA and are subject to their review.

EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

About EY

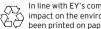
EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

© 2018 EYGM Limited. All Rights Reserved.

ED None

EY-000070901-01 (UK) 07/18. CSG London.



In line with EY's commitment to minimise its impact on the environment, this document has been printed on paper with a high recycled content.

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com