

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Meeting</i>	Audit and Ethics Committee
<i>Date of Meeting</i>	13 September 2016
<i>Report Title</i>	Audit Findings Report
<i>Ward Relevance</i>	Not ward specific
<i>Prior Consultation</i>	N/A
<i>Contact Officer</i>	Mannie Ketley, Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer, Tel: 01788 533416
<i>Report Subject to Call-in</i>	No
<i>Statutory/Policy Background</i>	International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice.
<i>Summary</i>	The purpose of this report is to present the Audit Findings Report for consideration by Audit and Ethics Committee.
<i>Financial Implications</i>	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
<i>Risk Management Implications</i>	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
<i>Environmental Implications</i>	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
<i>Equality and Diversity Implications</i>	There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
<i>Legal Implications</i>	There is a legal requirement for full Council to approve the Statement of Accounts each year.
<i>Recommendation</i>	The Audit Findings Report for 2015/16 be considered.
<i>Reasons for Recommendation</i>	Regulations require the Statement of Accounts to be considered and approved.

Audit and Ethics Committee – 13 September 2016

Audit Findings Report

Report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

The Audit Findings Report for 2015/16 be considered.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The accounts have been audited by Grant Thornton who have issued the attached audit findings report (Appendix). The purpose of an audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements.
- 1.2. The Audit Findings report highlights the key findings arising from the audit for the benefit of those charged with governance, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice. Its contents have been discussed with officers.

2. FINDINGS

- 2.1. The audit findings report states the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2016 and the statements have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16 and applicable law.
- 2.2. The auditors anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion by 30 September.
- 2.3. Details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit, which have been made in the final set of financial statements, are set out on page 17 of the report.
- 2.4. The audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. The audit considered and walked through the internal controls for Employee Remuneration, Operating Expenses and Welfare Expenditure as set out on page 12 of the report.
- 2.5. The controls were found to be operating effectively and there are no matters to report to the Audit and Ethics Committee.
- 2.6. In addition they have concluded the Council has proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources.

Name of Meeting: Audit and Ethics Committee
Date of Meeting: 13 September 2016
Subject Matter: Audit Findings Report
Originating Department: Corporate Resources

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Document No.	Date	Description of Document	Officer's Reference	File Reference
1.		Statement of Accounts 2015/16		



The Audit Findings for Rugby Borough Council

Year ended 31 March 2016

September 2016

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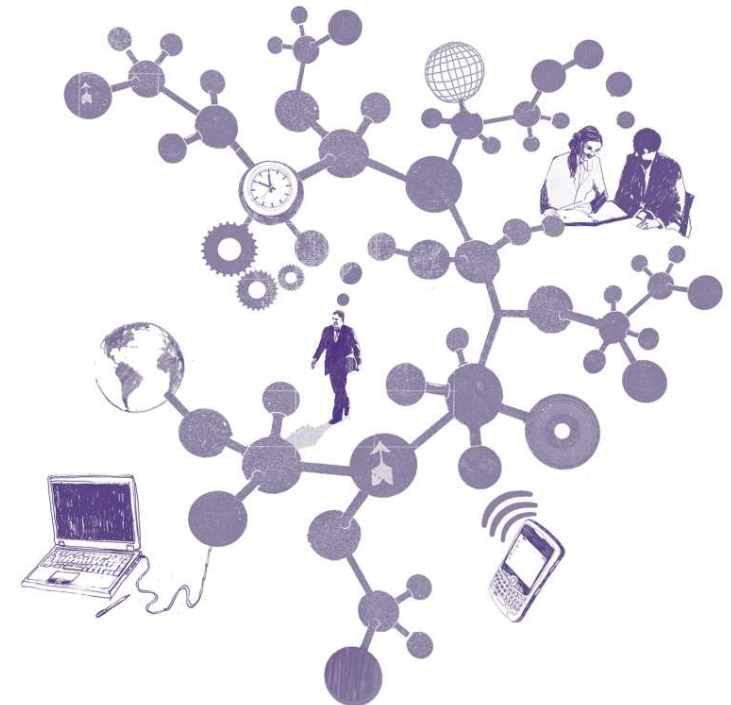
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September 2016

Dear Members of the Audit and Ethics Committee

Audit Findings for Rugby Borough Council for the year ending 31 March 2016

This Audit Findings report highlights the key findings arising from the audit for the benefit of those charged with governance (in the case of Rugby Borough Council, the Audit and Ethics Committee), as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice. Its contents have been discussed with officers.

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.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and giving a value for money conclusion. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. 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.

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Yours sincerely

John Gregory
Engagement lead

Chartered Accountants

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Section 1: Executive summary

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Value for Money

04. Fees, non audit services and independence

05. Communication of audit matters

Purpose of this report

This report highlights the key issues affecting the results of Rugby Borough Council ('the Council') and the preparation of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016. It is also used to report our audit findings to management and those charged with governance in accordance with the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act').

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and its income and expenditure for the year and whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

We are also required consider other information published together with the audited financial statements, whether it is consistent with the financial statements and in line with required guidance.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves on whether the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('the value for money (VFM) conclusion').

Auditor Guidance Note 7 (AGN07) clarifies our reporting requirements in the Code and the Act. We are required to provide a conclusion whether in all significant respects, the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the relevant period.

The Act also details the following additional powers and duties for local government auditors, which we are required to report to you if applied:

- a public interest report if we identify any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit that in our opinion should be considered by the Council or brought to the public's attention (section 24 of the Act);

- written recommendations which should be considered by the Council and responded to publicly (section 24 of the Act);
- application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law (section 28 of the Act);
- issue of an advisory notice (section 29 of the Act); and
- application for judicial review (section 31 of the Act).

We are also required to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the accounts and consider and decide upon objections received in relation to the accounts under sections 26 and 27 of the Act.

Introduction

In carrying out our audit we have not had to alter or change our audit approach, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan dated March 2016.

Our audit is substantially complete although we are finalising our procedures in the following areas:

- review of the final version of the financial statements
- obtaining and reviewing the management letter of representation and
- updating our post balance sheet events review, to the date of signing the opinion

We received draft financial statements and accompanying working papers at the commencement of our work, in accordance with the agreed timetable.

Key audit and financial reporting issues

Financial statements opinion

We anticipate providing a unqualified audit opinion in respect of the financial statements (see Appendix A).

The key messages arising from our audit of the Council's financial statements are:

- The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 recorded net expenditure of -£36,735,000, which is mainly due to the upwards revaluation of property, plant and equipment of £18,180,000 and the reduction in the IAS19 liability of £11,762,000. We have identified no adjustments affecting the Council's reported financial position
- The net cost of services have been restated to remove £9,543,000 of overhead recharges incorrectly accounted for as income and expenditure.
- We have made a small number of adjustments to the disclosures to improve the presentation of the financial statements.

Further details are set out in section two of this report.

Other financial statement responsibilities

As well as an opinion on the financial statements, we are required to give an opinion on whether other information published together with the audited financial statements is consistent with the financial statements. This includes:

- if the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit.

Controls

Roles and responsibilities

The Council's management is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of risk, and for developing, operating and monitoring the system of internal control.

Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we report these to the Council.

Findings

Our work has not identified any control weaknesses which we wish to highlight for your attention.

Further details are provided within section two of this report.

Value for Money

Based on our review, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Further detail of our work on Value for Money are set out in section three of this report.

Other statutory powers and duties

We have not identified any issues that have required us to apply our statutory powers and duties under the Act.

Grant certification

In addition to our responsibilities under the Code, we are required to certify the Council's Housing Benefit subsidy claim on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. At present our work on this claim is in progress and is not due to be finalised until 30 November 2016. We will report the outcome of this certification work through a separate report to the Audit and Ethics Committee which is due in February 2017.

The way forward

Matters arising from the financial statements audit and our review of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources have been discussed with the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer

We have made a number of recommendations, which are set out in the action plan at Appendix A. Recommendations have been discussed and agreed with the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer and the finance team.

Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Grant Thornton UK LLP
September 2016

Section 2: Audit findings

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Value for Money

04. Fees, non audit services and independence

05. Communication of audit matters

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 we reported in our audit plan, we determined overall materiality to be £1,215k (being 2% of gross revenue expenditure). We have considered whether this level remained appropriate during the course of the audit and, following receipt of the draft financial statements, revised our overall materiality to £1,252k (being 2% of outturn gross revenue expenditure).

We 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 accumulated effect of such amounts would have a material impact on the financial statements. We have defined the amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial to be £62k. Our assessment of the value of clearly trivial matters has been adjusted to reflect our revised materiality calculation.

As we reported in our audit plan, we identified the following items where we decided that separate materiality levels were appropriate. These remain the same as reported in our audit plan.

Balance/transaction/disclosure	Explanation	Materiality level
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

Audit findings against significant risks

"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 (UK&I) 315).

In this section we detail our response to the significant risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan. As we noted in our plan, there are two presumed significant risks which are applicable to all audits under auditing standards.

	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
1.	<p>The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions</p> <p>Under ISA (UK&I) 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.</p> <p>This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition.</p>	<p>Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at Rugby Borough Council, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition • opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited; and • the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Rugby Borough Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable. 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of revenue recognition.</p>
2.	<p>Management over-ride of controls</p> <p>Under ISA (UK&I) 240 it is presumed that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities.</p>	<p>We have completed the following testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of entity controls • testing of journal entries • review of accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management • review of unusual significant transactions 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any evidence of management over-ride of controls. In particular the findings of our review of journal controls and testing of journal entries has not identified any significant issues.</p>

Audit findings against significant risks continued

We have also identified the following significant risks of material misstatement from our understanding of the entity. We set out below the work we have completed to address these risks.

	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
3.	<p>Valuation of pension fund net liability</p> <p>The Council's pension fund asset and liability as reflected in its balance sheet represent significant estimates in the financial statements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of the key controls that were put in place by management to ensure that the pension fund liability was not materially misstated. • Walkthrough of the key controls to assess whether they were implemented as expected and mitigate the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements. • Review of the competence, expertise and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Council's pension fund valuation. • Gaining an understanding of the basis on which the IAS 19 valuation was carried out, undertaking procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made. • Review of the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in notes to the financial statements with the actuarial report from your actuary. 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of the valuation of the pension fund net liability.</p>



Audit findings against other risks

In this section we detail our response to the other risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan. Recommendations, together with management responses are attached at appendix A.

Transaction cycle	Description of risk	Work completed	Assurance gained & issues arising
Employee remuneration	Employee remuneration accruals understated (Remuneration expenses not correct)	We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaken walkthrough of the key controls to assess the whether those controls were in line with our documented understanding performance of substantive testing on material expenditure streams. 	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
Operating expenses	Creditors understated or not recorded in the correct period (Operating expenses understated)	We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaken walkthrough of the key controls to assess the whether those controls were in line with our documented understanding performance of substantive testing on material expenditure streams and creditors review of accounting estimates, judgments and decisions made by management. 	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
Welfare expenditure	Welfare benefit expenditure improperly computed	We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaken walkthrough of the key controls for this system testing of the final Housing Benefit claim will be completed using the HB COUNT methodology, with assurance for the financial statements taken from the testing of the initial sample of 20 rent allowance cases and other modules of the HB COUNT approach. 	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.



Accounting policies, estimates and judgements

In this section we report on our consideration of accounting policies, in particular revenue recognition policies, and key estimates and judgements made and included with the Council's financial statements.

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
Revenue recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. • There are policies covering the major sources of income such as fees and charges, grants, Council Tax, NDR and interest receivable. 	Our review of revenue recognition policies has not highlighted any issues which we wish to bring to your attention	 Green
Judgements and estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key estimates and judgements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Useful life of PPE – Revaluations – Impairments – Accruals – Valuation of pension fund net liability – Provision for NNDR appeals – Other provisions 	The audit work undertaken did not highlight any issues with regard to these judgements and estimates and has not highlighted any issues which we wish to bring to your attention.	 Green

Assessment

Accounting policies, estimates and judgements continued

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
Going concern	The Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer, s151 officer has a reasonable expectation that the services provided by the Council will continue for the foreseeable future. Members concur with this view. For this reason, the Council continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.	We have reviewed the Council's assessment and are satisfied with management's assessment that the going concern basis is appropriate for the 2015/16 financial statements.	 Green
Other accounting policies	We have reviewed the Council's policies against the requirements of the CIPFA Code and accounting standards.	We have reviewed the Council's policies against the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. The Council's accounting policies are appropriate and consistent with previous years.	 Green

Assessment

● Marginal accounting policy which could potentially attract attention from regulators
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● Accounting policy appropriate but scope for improved disclosure

● Accounting policy appropriate and disclosures sufficient

Other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

	Issue	Commentary
1.	Matters in relation to fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit and Ethics Committee. We have not been made aware of any incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit
2.	Matters in relation to related parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the work we carried out, we have not identified any related party transactions which have not been disclosed
3.	Matters in relation to laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
4.	Written representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standard letter of representation has been requested from the Council.
5.	Confirmation requests from third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We obtained direct confirmations from third parties for the Council's material loans, bank and short term investment balances. These confirmations did not raise any issues about the sums recognised in the Council's financial statements.
6.	Disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our review identified some omitted disclosures in the financial statements. The more significant of these omissions are detailed in the 'Misclassifications and disclosure changes ' section of the report. The financial statements have been adjusted to include these required disclosures.
7.	Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We have not identified any issues we would be required to report by exception in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit The information in the Narrative Report is materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements or our knowledge of the Council acquired in the course of performing our audit, or is otherwise misleading.
8.	Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that work is not required as the Council does not exceed the threshold;

Internal controls

The purpose of an audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements.

Our audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. We considered and walked through the internal controls for Employee Remuneration, Operating Expenses and Welfare Expenditure as set out on page 12 above.

The controls were found to be operating effectively and we have no matters to report to the Audit and Ethics Committee

Misclassifications and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Adjustment type	Value £'000	Account balance	Impact on the financial statements
1 Misclassification	9,543	CIES	<p>This relates to the Council including overhead recharges as income and expenditure within the CIES. The effect of this misclassification is to overstate both income and expenditure within the net costs of services.</p> <p>The impact of this change is to reduce expenditure and income within net cost of services by £9,543k.</p> <p>There is no impact on the Council's overall financial position from this amendment.</p>
2 Misclassification	154	Note 25 – Debtors and Note 26 - Creditors	<p>This relates to deferred income incorrectly being netted off against debtors. In accordance with the Code of Practice deferred income should be included within creditors.</p> <p>The impact of this change is to increase the Other Entities and Individuals debtor and creditor figures by £154k</p> <p>This re-classification has no impact on the Council's overall financial position.</p>
3 Misclassification	408	Note 26 - Creditors	<p>The note has been amended to correct a misclassification of creditors between Other Local Authorities and Other Entities and Individuals.</p> <p>The impact of this change is to increase the Other Local Authorities by £408k and reduce Other Entities and Individuals by £408k.</p> <p>This re-classification has no impact on the Council's overall financial position.</p>
4 Disclosure	n/a	Note 23 Leases	<p>The leases note was removed from the 2015/16 draft statements in-line with the CIPFA 'telling the story' consultation and wider decluttering agenda, as previous years' disclosures had contained only immaterial amounts. However, during 2015/16 the Council extended a lease agreement with Rugby Town JFC for 125 years at approximately £10k per annum and due to the length of this lease the future minimum payments are material and require disclosure within the financial statements. Therefore the leases note has been reinstated into the final 2015/16 financial statements</p>

Misclassifications and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Adjustment type	Value £'000	Account balance	Impact on the financial statements
5 Disclosure	n/a	Note 43 - Events after the Balance Sheet Date	The note has been expanded to consider the potential impact on the Council of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.
6 Disclosure	14	Note 7 – Officers Remuneration	The banding of one exit package in the termination table has been updated to reflect the total value of the exit package including PILON and payments for unused annual leave.

Section 3: Value for Money

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Value for Money

04. Fees, non-audit services and independence

05. Communication of audit matters

Background

We are required by section 21 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') and the NAO Code of Audit Practice ('the Code') to satisfy ourselves that 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.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves that proper arrangements are in place at the Council. The Act and NAO guidance state that for local government bodies, auditors are required to give a conclusion on whether the Council has put proper arrangements in place.

In carrying out this work, we are required to follow the NAO's Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03) issued in November 2015. AGN 03 identifies one single criterion for auditors to evaluate:

In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

AGN03 provides examples of proper arrangements against three sub-criteria but specifically states that these are not separate criteria for assessment purposes and that auditors are not required to reach a distinct judgement against each of these.

Risk assessment

We carried out an initial risk assessment in February 2016 and identified the following significant risks, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan dated March 2016.

We identified risks in respect of specific areas of proper arrangements using the guidance contained in AGN03.

We have continued our review of relevant documents up to the date of giving our report, and have not identified any further significant risks where we need to perform further work. We therefore carried out further work only in respect of the significant risks we identified from our initial risk assessment.

Significant qualitative aspects

AGN 03 requires us to disclose our views on significant qualitative aspects of the Council's arrangements for delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have focused our work on the significant risks that we identified in the Council's arrangements. In arriving at our conclusion, our main considerations were:

- the Council's arrangements for medium term financial planning and identifying savings
- gaining an understanding of the partnerships that the Council are involved in and how they help the Council achieve its strategic priorities.

We have set out more detail on the risks we identified, the results of the work we performed and the conclusions we drew from this work later in this section.

Overall conclusion

Based on the work we performed to address the significant risks, we concluded that:

- the Council had proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources. The text of our report, which confirms this can be found at Appendix B.

Key findings

We set out below our key findings against the significant risks we identified through our initial risk assessment and further risks identified through our ongoing review of documents.

Significant risk	Work to address	Findings and conclusions
<p>Medium Term Financial Planning The Council faces an uphill task to balance its finances over the medium term. The gap between income and spending plans is estimated at £1.9m for 2018/19 and £2.1m for 2019/20.</p>	<p>We have assessed whether the Council is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • producing and using appropriate and reliable financial information to support informed decision making and performance management • producing reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities • planning its finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions. 	<p>We found that the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an agreed, balanced financial plan for 2016/17 • identified and taken account of funding cuts in its medium term financial plans including responding to consultations on changes to the New Home Bonus and 100% Business Rate Retention, both of which will have an impact on the Council. • taken into account the financial impact of demographic trends and other social pressures in its medium term financial plans • produced monitoring reports for members on a timely basis. <p>On that basis we concluded that the risk was sufficiently mitigated and the Council has proper arrangements</p>
<p>Partnership Arrangements The Council has already developed a number of working partnerships such as the operation of Rainsbrook Crematorium with Daventry Borough Council . We need to understand how this and other partnerships help the Council to achieve its strategic priorities.</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gained an understanding of the Council's strategy for collaboration with partners and the overall ambition and limitations in this area. • gained an understanding of the governance arrangements in place for partnership working • examined specific examples of partnership working to understand how they are helping the Council achieve its strategic objectives. 	<p>We have reviewed the Council's partnership workings and the governance arrangements in place. We found that the Council's partnerships working are aligned to its strategic objectives.</p> <p>Examples of partnership working include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby is a partner in the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership. This partnership involves both private and public sector organisations and aims to grow the local economy, increase prosperity and attract new jobs and investments into the area. • The Council is a member of the Warwickshire Direct Partnership (WDP) which is a shared service arrangement with Warwickshire County Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for the provision of customer services. Its objectives are to provide services to its citizens and customers in the most effective and efficient way. • The Council is also working with Daventry District and Warwick District councils to provide a building control shared service. This partnership maximises the use of resources to provide a shared professional and effective building control service that is economic and efficient and enhances the service provided to their respective communities. <p>On that basis we concluded that the risk was sufficiently mitigated and the Council has proper arrangements.</p>

Significant difficulties in undertaking our work

We did not identify any significant difficulties in undertaking our work on your arrangements which we wish to draw to your attention.

Significant matters discussed with management

There were no matters where no other evidence was available or matters of such significance to our conclusion or that we required written representation from management or those charged with governance.

Any other matters

There were no other matters from our work which were significant to our consideration of your arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.

Section 4: Fees, non-audit services and independence

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Value for Money

04. Fees, non audit services and independence

05. Communication of audit matters

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and provision of non-audit services.

Fees

	Proposed fee £	Final fee £
Council audit	54,968	54,968
Grant certification	8,149	8,149
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	63,117	63,117

The proposed fees for the year were in line with the scale fee set by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA).

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'.

Fees for other services

Service	Fees £
Audit related services	Nil
Non-audit services:	
• Anti-fraud and corruption strategy review	16,380
• Housing rents review	

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.

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

Section 6: Communication of audit matters

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Value for Money

04. Fees, non audit services and independence

05. Communication of audit matters

Communication to those charged with governance

International Standards on Auditing ISA (UK&I) 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.

The Audit Plan outlined our audit strategy and plan to deliver the audit, while this Audit Findings report presents the key issues and other matters arising from the audit, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

Respective responsibilities

The Audit Findings Report 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.psa.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 (<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/about-code/>). 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 auditor's report		✓
Uncorrected misstatements		✓
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		✓
Significant matters in relation to going concern		✓

Appendices

Appendix A: Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unmodified audit report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

We have audited the financial statements of Rugby Borough Council (the "Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the "Act"). The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Account, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Act and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16, which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2016 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 and applicable law.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the other information published together with the audited financial statements in the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement is consistent with the audited financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if:

- in our opinion the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the guidance included in 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007; or
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Act; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Act; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Act.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Act to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Scope of the review of the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General as required by the Act (the "Code"), having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2015, as to whether the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the year ended 31 March 2016.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether in all significant respects the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2015, we are satisfied that in all significant respects the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Code.

John Gregory
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

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Birmingham
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September 2016



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