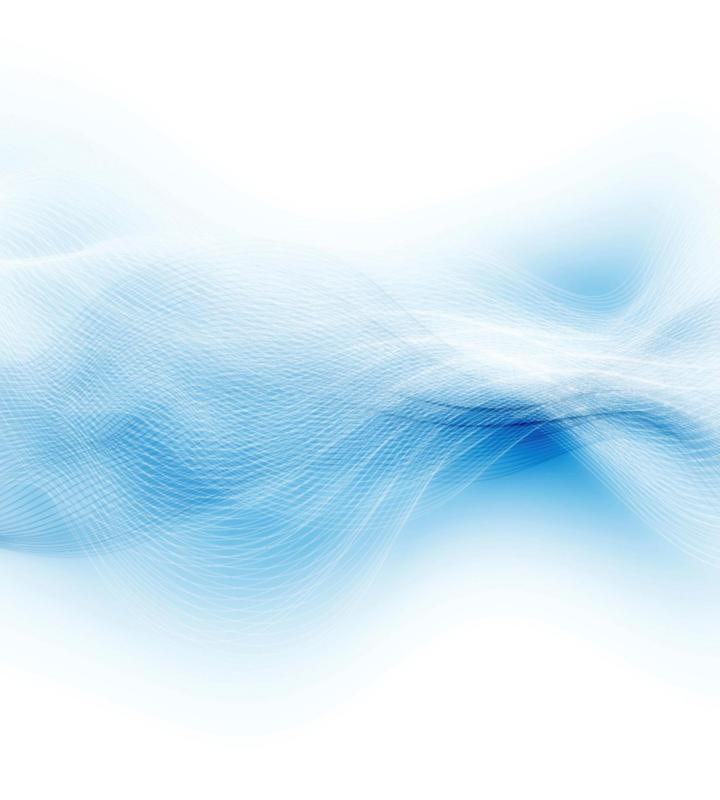
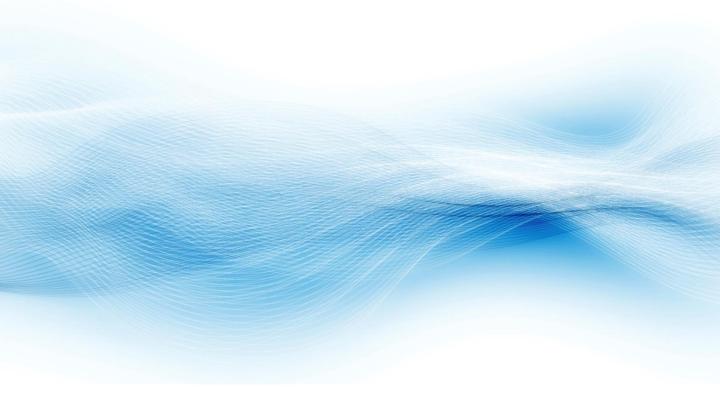
Audit Completion Report Bassetlaw District Council

Year ended 31 March 2019





CONTENTS

- 1. Executive summary
- 2. Significant findings
- 3. Internal control recommendations
- 4. Summary of misstatements
- 5. Value for Money conclusion

Appendix A – Draft management representation letter

Appendix B – Draft auditor's report

Appendix C - Independence

Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Council are prepared for the sole use of the Council and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.





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Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee Members Bassetlaw District Council Queens Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S80 2AH

25 July 2019

Dear Members

Audit Completion Report - Year ended 31 March 2019

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2019. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement, was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented on 21 January 2019. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement remain appropriate.

We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of your team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0115 964 4744.

Yours faithfully

David Hoose Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP - Park View House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham, NG1 5DW





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of this report and principal conclusions

The Audit Completion Report sets out the findings from our audit of Bassetlaw District Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2019, and forms the basis for discussion at the Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25 July 2019.

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2018/19 is set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and, as outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK) and means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement.

Sections 2 and 5 of this report outline the detailed findings from our work on the financial statements and our conclusion on the Council's arrangements to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Section 2 also includes our conclusions on the audit risks and areas of management judgement in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, which include:

- · Management override of controls;
- Property, plant and equipment valuation;
- · Defined benefit liability valuation; and
- Transfer of leisure services.

Status of our work

As we outline on the following page, our work is substantially complete. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the outstanding work, at the time of issuing this report we have the following conclusions:

Opinion on the financial statements

We anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our proposed audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.

Value for Money conclusion We anticipate concluding that the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Our draft auditor's report, including proposed conclusion, is provided in Appendix B.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) We anticipate completing our work on your WGA submission, in line with the group instructions issued by the NAO, which has a deadline of 13 September 2019. The Council is below the threshold requiring a detailed review of your WGA submission, and we expect to be able to provide the information required by NAO at the conclusion of our audit work, well ahead of the formal deadline.

Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Council and to consider any objection made to the accounts. At the time of writing our report, we have not received any questions or objections.

Executive summary

Significant findings

Internal control recommendations

Summary of

Value for Money conclusion

Appendices



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED) 1.

Status of our audit work

We have substantially completed our work on the financial statements and Value for Money conclusion for the year ended 31 March 2019. At the time of preparing this report the following matters remain outstanding:

Audit area Status Des		Description of outstanding matters	
Defined benefit liability valuation	•	We are awaiting a letter of assurance from the auditor of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund in relation to the valuation of the fund.	
Closure procedures		Review and closure processes, including final consideration of post balance sheet events and checking the revised financial statements received.	

Status

- Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements
- Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements
- Not considered likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements

We will provide the Council with an update in relation to these outstanding matters, prior to signing the auditor's report.

Our audit approach

We provided details of our intended audit approach in our Audit Strategy Memorandum in January 2019. We have not made any changes to our audit approach since we presented our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Materiality

We set materiality at the planning stage of the audit at £2,127,000 using a benchmark of 2% of Gross Operating Expenditure. Our final assessment of materiality, based on the final financial statements and qualitative factors is £2,392,000, using the same benchmark. We set our trivial threshold (the level under which individual errors are not communicated to the Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee, at £72,000 based on 3% of overall materiality. Performance materiality is the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce, to an appropriately low level, the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole. In setting performance materiality we have taken into account that this is our first year of audit and accordingly we do not hold extensive cumulative audit knowledge about the Council's financial statements. We have therefore set our performance materiality at 65% of our overall materiality being £1,555,000.

Misstatements and internal control recommendations

Section 3 sets out the internal control recommendations that we make.

Section 4 outlines the misstatements noted as part of our audit as at the time of issuing this report. If any additional misstatements are noted on completion of the outstanding work, these will be reported to the Council in a follow-up letter.



2. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

Set out below are the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- our audit conclusions regarding significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum:
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 10 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year;
- significant matters discussed with management; and
- any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

As part of our planning procedures we considered the risks of material misstatement in the Council's financial statements that required special audit consideration. Although we report identified significant risks at the planning stage of the audit in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our risk assessment is a continuous process and we regularly consider whether new significant risks have arisen and how we intend to respond to these risks. No new risks have been identified since we issued our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Significant risk

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit work including:

- documenting our understanding of the processes and controls in place to mitigate the risks identified, and walking through those processes and controls to confirm our understanding;
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements;
- reviewing the calculation of management's material accruals, estimates and provisions for evidence of management bias;
- evaluating the business rationale for any significant unusual transactions;
- understanding the oversight given by those charged with governance of the management processes over fraud;
- sampling accruals and provisions based on established testing thresholds; and
- reviewing material aspects of capital expenditure on property plant and equipment to check it meets the relevant accounting requirements to be capitalised.

Audit conclusion

Our audit work has provided the assurance we sought and has not identified any material issues to bring to your attention. There is no indication of management override of controls.

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Significant risk

Valuation of property, plant and equipment, investment properties and assets held for sale

Description of the risk

The Council's accounts contain material balances and disclosures relating to its holding of property, plant and equipment, investment properties and assets held for sale, with the majority of land and building assets required to be carried at valuation. Due to a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with those held at valuation, we have determined there is a significant risk in this area.

How we addressed this risk

In relation to the valuation of property, plant and equipment, investment properties and assets held for sale we:

- critically assessed the Council valuer's scope of work, qualifications, objectivity and independence to carry out the required programme of revaluations;
- considered whether the overall revaluation methodologies used by the Council valuer are in line with industry practice, the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's accounting policies;
- compared valuation movements against information provided by the NAO on regional valuation trends;
 critically assessed the approach that the Council adopted to ensure that assets not subject to revaluation in 2018/19 were materially correct, including considering the robustness of that approach in light of the valuation information reported by the Council's valuer;
- critically assessed the treatment of the upward and downward revaluations in the Council's financial statements with regards to the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice;
- critically assessed the approach that the Council adopted to ensure that assets not subject to revaluation in 2018/19 were materially correct, including considering the robustness of that approach in light of the valuation information reported by the Council's valuer; and
- tested a sample of items of capital expenditure in 2018/19 to confirm that the additions were appropriately valued in the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our 2018/19 testing of land and buildings valuations identified a number of issues including the requirement to apply indexation amounting to £12.9million to the valuation of council dwellings. Management has addressed and corrected these matters for the 2018/19 financial statements. Our work has provided the assurance we sought.



Significant risk

Description of the risk

Valuation of net defined benefit liability The Council's accounts contain material liabilities relating to the local government pension scheme. The Council uses an actuary to provide an annual valuation of these liabilities in line with the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits. Due to the high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with this valuation, we have determined there is a significant risk in this area.

How we addressed this risk

In relation to the valuation of the Council's defined benefit pension liability we:

- critically assessed the competency, objectivity and independence of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund's Actuary, Barnett Waddingham;
- liaised with the auditors of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund to gain assurance that the controls in
 place at the Pension Fund are operating effectively. This included consideration of the processes and
 controls in place to ensure data provided to the Actuary by the Pension Fund for the purposes of the
 IAS 19 valuation was complete and accurate;
- tested payroll transactions at the Council to provide assurance over the pension contributions which were deducted and paid to the Pension Fund by the Council;
- reviewed the appropriateness of the Pension Asset and Liability valuation methodologies applied by the Pension Fund Actuary, and the key assumptions included within the valuation. This included comparing them to expected ranges, utilising information provided by PwC, the consulting actuary engaged by the National Audit Office; and
- agreed the data in the IAS 19 valuation report provided by the Fund Actuary for accounting purposes to the pension accounting entries and disclosures in the Council's financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our work identified that the valuation of the Council's defined benefit pension liability did not reflect the year-end value of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund nor the impact of the recent judgement made in relation the McCloud case. In this regard it is worth noting that the impact of the recent judgement made in relation the McCloud case is a national issue affecting all councils. The Council has adjusted its 2018/19 financial statements to reflect these matters and our work has provided the assurance we sought.



Significant risk

Description of the risk

Transfer of A1 Housing activities

During 2018/19 the Council transferred the housing functions provided by A1 Housing (an arms length management organisation) back into direct management by the Council. This transfer and the associated integration of these activities into the Council's operations represented a significant change management agenda. The changes involved will impact on the values detailed in the Council's accounts for 2018/19 and we have determined there is a significant risk in this area.

How we addressed this risk

In relation to the transfer of housing services we:

- considered whether appropriate methodologies had been used by the Council to ensure the relevant transactions and valuations were reflected in the Council's 2018/19 accounts;
- tested related transactions at the Council to provide assurance over the transfer values included in the Council's 2018/19 accounts;
- ensured that the Council had made appropriate disclosures to reflect the transfer; and
- agreed the data relating to A1 Housing in the IAS 19 valuation report provided by the Fund Actuary to the associated accounting entries made by the Council.

Audit conclusion

Our audit work has provided the assurance we sought and has not identified any material issues to bring to your attention.



Management judgement

1) Debt impairment

Description of the management judgement

Uncertainty exists that, in the current economic climate, the Council's provision for the impairment of doubtful debts would be sufficient.

How our audit addressed this area of management judgement

In relation to the Council's provision for the impairment of doubtful debts we:

- reviewed the level of reported debt as at 31 March 2019 and considered the implications for any material change;
- ensured that management's methodology for calculating the provision had been consistently applied and was in line with the requirements of the Code;
- tested the collectability of both significant and a sample of other non-significant debtor balances; and
- re-performed the basis of the calculation for the impairment of debtors.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the assurance we sought and has not highlighted any material issues to bring to your attention.

Management judgement

2) Provision for business rate appeals against the rating list

Description of the management judgement

The issue of a new rating list and a change in the appeals process has created delays in appeals being notified to the Council. Consequently management need to make an assumption over the likely level of appeals that will be successful based on their rating knowledge.

How our audit addressed this area of management judgement

In relation to the Council's provision for business rate appeals against the rating list we:

- reviewed the basis of the Council's calculation of its provision by recalculating the provision, evaluating
 the key assumptions of the provision, vouching movements in the provision and confirming
 completeness of entries;
- assessed whether the provision had been calculated and recorded in accordance with the Council's accounting policy;
- assessed whether the amount provided at the period end is appropriate, taking into account the Council's anticipated actual liability; and
- assessed whether the reconciliation of movements during the period and description of the nature of the provision have been adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the assurance we sought and has not highlighted any material issues to bring to your attention.

xecutive summary

Significant findings

Internal control recommendations

Summary of misstatement

Value for Money conclusion

Appendices



Management judgement

3) Minimum revenue provision (MRP)

Description of the management judgement

Local authorities are normally required each year to set aside some of their revenues as a provision for debt in respect of capital expenditure financed by borrowing or long term credit arrangements, by reference to the prior year's closing Capital Financing Requirement. The amount to be set aside each year is not prescribed although an overarching principle of prudency is expected to be adopted. This is supported by statutory guidance as to how this could be achieved and the Council is required to have regard to this in setting its MRP policy. Management judgement is therefore exercised is determining the level of its prudent provision.

How our audit addressed this area of management judgement

In relation to the Council's provision for minimum revenue provision (MRP) we:

- reviewed the Council's MRP policy to ensure that it has been developed with regard to the statutory guidance;
- assessed whether the provision had been calculated and recorded in accordance with the Council's
- assessed whether the amount provided for the period was appropriate, taking into account the Council's Capital Financing Requirement; and
- confirmed that any charge had been accounted for in accordance with the Code.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the assurance we sought and has not highlighted any material issues to bring to your attention.

Qualitative aspects of the Council's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Council's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded that following the amendments that have been agreed they comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code), appropriately tailored to the Council's circumstance. The Council's policies have been updated appropriately to reflect the changes for 2018/19 in respect of IFRS 9 (Financial Instruments) and IFRS 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers).

In recognition of the demands placed upon staff as a result of the earlier accounts production deadline, the Council has refined its closedown plan to enhance the project management of this complex process. This included providing working papers to aid the audit process, and officers engaging with the audit process in the period leading up to the year end in order to proactively address issues as they emerged.

Draft accounts were received from the Council on 31 May 2019. This represents a significant achievement by the finance team.

Opening Balances

We have performed relevant audit procedures on the Council's opening balances. We have no observations or matters to report relating to the opening financial position as at 1 April 2018.



Significant matters discussed with management

There have been significant issues this year relating to accounting for pensions. These issues are not specific to the Council, but are national issues impacting on many local government bodies. There have been two issues:

- The year-end value of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund in order to produce the IAS19 report for the accounts by mid April it was necessary for the actuary to use an estimate of the value of Nottinghamshire Pension Fund assets as at 31 March 2019. The actual asset values are not known for many of the assets until early May and for pooled investment funds mid to late May. The approach taken was to use the last quarter end position (31 December 2018) supplemented with monthly valuations for January and February. The valuations were then rolled forward using the closest matched investment indices to create an estimated value for assets as at 31 March 2019 to be used in the IAS19 report. In previous years the estimate has been close to the actual valuation. However this year due to significant variations in asset valuations in the final quarter, the difference was greater; and
- The McCloud judgement this was referenced in the Council's draft financial statements. It relates to claims of discrimination in respect of protections offered to some, but not all, pension scheme members as part of reforms to public sector pensions. In December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled in a test case that this amounted to unlawful discrimination. At the time the Council was producing its draft financial statements, the Government intended to appeal to the Supreme Court and the outcome was uncertain. During the audit period, the Government has not been granted leave to appeal, meaning that some form of restitution across all public sector pension schemes is more certain, requiring the estimated impact of this to be reflected in the pension disclosures in the financial statements, subject to materiality considerations.

Neither of these issues had a significant impact on the Council in terms of a bottom-line impact on the General Fund balance, although in practice, both these issues will place upward pressure on employers pension contributions reflecting an increased pension liability to recover over the life of the scheme.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2018/19 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account.

At the time of writing our report, we have not received any questions or objections.



3. INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we have considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements. We do this in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statement and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, nor to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and that we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified more deficiencies to be reported or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

Our findings and recommendations are set out below. We have assigned priority rankings to each of them to reflect the importance that we consider each poses to your organisation and, hence, our recommendation in terms of the urgency of required action. In summary, the matters arising fall into the following categories:

Priority ranking	Description	2018/19 issues identified	2017/18 issues reported
1 (high)	In our view, there is potential for financial loss, damage to reputation or loss of information. This may have implications for the achievement of business strategic objectives. The recommendation should be taken into consideration by management immediately.	0	0
2 (medium)	In our view, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency. The recommendations should be actioned in the near future.	2	2
3 (low)	In our view, internal control should be strengthened in these additional areas when practicable.	5	0

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INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED) 3.

Other deficiencies in internal control – Level 2

Council Dwelling Valuation and Indexation – Level 2

Description of deficiency

The Council Dwellings valuation was undertaken as at 31 December 2018, however the indexation from December to March 2019 was not recognised in the unaudited statement of accounts, resulting in a £12.9m adjustment.

Potential effects

There was potential for a financial error. It is however recognised that the indexation information required to make the required adjustment is not available until after the end of the financial year.

Recommendation

We recommend that valuations which are not conducted at the year end are appropriately indexed up to the relevant year end value.

Management response

In future years we are looking to carry out valuations without using indexation, which should address the issue.

Expenditure and Income by Nature – Level 2

Description of deficiency

The expenditure per the Expenditure and Income by Nature disclosure did not reconcile to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Potential effects

There was potential for a financial error.

Recommendation

We recommend that a reconciliation is conducted to ensure the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement reconciles to the Expenditure and Income by Nature disclosure.

Management response

Control checks will be built into future years' Statement of Accounts working papers to reconcile the two notes.



INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED) 3.

Other recommendations on internal control - Level 3

Minimum Revenue Provision - Level 3

Description of deficiency

Within the Minimum Revenue Provision calculations, there are two assets being charged over a period in excess of the CIPFA guide maximum of 50 years.

Potential effects

The Minimum Revenue Provision calculations could be undertaken incorrectly and lead to an error in the Council's financing arrangements.

Recommendation

We recommend that all assets are charged over a maximum useful economic life of up to 50 years as advised by CIPFA.

Management response

The MRP calculation will be adjusted accordingly in 2019/20 and asset lives will be reviewed to ensure all lives are 50 years or less.

Asset Held for Sale Valuation – Level 3

Description of deficiency

Nurseries and Greenhouses were transferred to Assets Held for Sale at an incorrect value, as they were not appropriately recognised at the valuation amount.

Potential effects

Assets would be incorrectly stated if they were not recognised at the value per the valuation certificates.

Recommendation

We recommend that all assets are checked against the valuation certificates to ensure they are being recognised at the correct value.

Management response

Assets are checked against the valuation certificates as part of the year end process. There was a technical problem with the processing of this downward revaluation in the fixed asset system. We were aware of the issue and it was addressed after the draft financial statement had been issued. In future, we will put processes in place to ensure this does not reoccur.

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3. INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

Other recommendations on internal control – Level 3 (continued)

Property, Plant and Equipment - Level 3

Description of deficiency

There were differences identified between the Fixed Asset Register and the Unaudited Financial Statements, there was no Net Book Value impact, however the differences involved affected the cost and accumulated depreciation amounts.

Potential effects

There is a risk regarding the misstatement of assets and/or financial error.

Recommendation

We recommend that detailed reconciliations are conducted to ensure the Fixed Asset Register reconciles to the Financial Statements.

Management response

Detailed reconciliations will be carried out in future years.

Related Parties - Level 3

Description of deficiency

There are two councillors who have not returned signed declaration of independence forms.

Potential effects

There is a risk of undetected related party transactions.

Recommendation

We recommend that signed declarations of independence are completed and collated for all councillors.

Management response

We make every effort to collect signed declarations and will continue to do so in future years.



INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED) 3.

Other recommendations on internal control – Level 3 (continued)

Contingent Asset - Level 3

Description of deficiency

A contingent asset relating to a HMRC VAT claim has been settled after the year end.

Potential effects

The VAT debtor balance is understated at the year end.

Recommendation

We recommend that contingent assets and liabilities are reviewed after the year-end to ensure the position is being correctly reflected in the Financial Statements.

Management response

Comments noted.



3. INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

Follow up of previous internal control points

We set out below an update on the two internal control points raised by KPMG in the prior year.

Controls in place in regard to the valuation process – Level 2

KPMG's 2017/18 testing of the valuation work undertaken found there was a need to ensure that valuations are appropriately reviewed and revisited to ensure accurate entries are made in the statement of accounts.

Potential effects

There was a potential risk that the values of property, plant and equipment, investment properties and assets held for sale in the statement of accounts may be misstated.

2018/19 update

Our 2018/19 testing of the valuation of property, plant and equipment identified a number of valuation issues which we have set out in this report.

Assurance over the controls operated by third parties-Level 2

KPMG's 2017/18 testing of the Council's IT control environment found that there was a need to put arrangements in place to gain assurance over the controls operated by the third party service organisations involved in the provision of the Authority's Payroll and HR system and financial ledger system.

Potential effects

The Council did not have assurance over the controls operated by such third parties to safeguard the Council's information.

2018/19 update

Our 2018/19 testing indicated that such assurances were now being sought on an ongoing basis.



SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS 4.

We set out below the misstatements identified for adjustment during the course of the audit, above the level of our trivial threshold of £72,000.

There was one unadjusted misstatement that was identified during the course of our audit which management has assessed as not being material, either individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements and does not currently plan to adjust.

The table below outlines the misstatement that has not been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

UNADJUSTED

1. DR Vat Debtor CR Income CR Adviser cost Being the adjustment required to recognise a settled contingent asset at the year

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and MIRS		Balanc	e sheet
Dr £'000s	Cr £'000s	Dr £'000s	Cr £'000s
	(319)	404	(85)

The table below outlines the misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

ADJUSTED

	Before ((£'000)	After(£'000)		
. Balance Sheet - Net Pension Liability	72,018	74,056		
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – Cost of Services: Service Costs	20,588	21,492		
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure: Net interest expense	1,738	1,738		
Total re-measurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	13,934	15,972		
Updated figures as a result of a revised actuarial valuation, taking into account assumptions for the McCloud judgement and the actual performance of the pension fund to 31 March 2019. There are also additional consequential changes to the				

Pension Fund note, but none of these items significantly impact the Council's General Fund.

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Internal control recommendations

Summary of misstatements Value for Money conclusion

4. SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

		Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and MIRS		Balance sheet	
		Dr £'000s	Cr £'000s	Dr £'000s	Cr £'000s
2.	DR Long term borrowings CR Short term borrowings Being the adjustment to correctly recognise PWLB due within one year			4,000	(4,000)
3.	DR Cash and Bank CR ST Investments Being the adjustment to recognise the short term investments within cash and bank to remain comparable year on year			2,000	(2,000)
4.	DR Revaluation Reserve CR Council Dwellings Being the adjustment to Council Dwellings due to the change in indexation from December 2018 to March 2019			12,926	(12,926)
5.	DR Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve (Council Dwellings) CR Depreciation charge (Council Dwellings) Being the adjustment to depreciation of Council Dwellings which should have been recognised in the revaluation reserve		(1,053)		1,053
6.	DR Revaluation Reserve CR Asset Held for Sale Being the adjustment to recognise the correct value of the Nurseries and Greenhouses, as a result of a valuation conducted on an asset held for sale			75	(75)
7.	DR Assets Held for Sale CR Tangible Fixed Asset - OLB Being the adjustment to transfer the Farr Centre Off Chapel Walk from Other Land & Buildings to Assets Held For Sale			49	(49)
8.	DR Revaluation Reserve - Cost (Other Land and Buildings) CR Depreciation written out to RR (Other Land and Buildings) Being the adjustment to balance the discrepancy between Other Land & Building cost / depreciation offset by a compensating error on the Revaluation Reserve			10	(10)
9.	DR Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve CR Capital Adjustment Account Being the adjustment to reclassify an amount from the capital adjustment account to the deferred capital receipts reserve			28	(28)

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SUMMARY OF MISSTATEMENTS (CONTINUED) 4.

Disclosure amendments

During our review of the financial statements we identified some minor amendments to the disclosures made. These disclosure issues included the following and were corrected by the Council in the final version of its financial statements for 2018/19.

- Accounting polices There were several cases whereby the accounting policies had missing paragraphs compared to the prior year accounting polices.
- Number of compulsory redundancies The number of compulsory redundancies declared in the 2017/18 statement of accounts was stated as being 4. This was a misstatement and should have read 3. The restatement adjustment has been made in the 2018/19 accounts.
- Collection Fund Notes (Band D) The table presented in the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts was incorrect; rather than showing the values for years 16/17 and 17/18 it stated the values relating to 17/18 and 18/19. Therefore the table in the 2018/19 Statement remains unchanged from last year as the band D values for 17/18 and 18/19 are now correctly presented.
- Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement The positioning of the Expenditure & Funding Analysis Statement indicated that it was part of the Core Financial Statements which is not the case and has therefore been corrected.

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5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION

Our approach to Value for Money

We are required to form a conclusion as to whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out in order to form our conclusion, and sets out the criterion and sub-criteria that we are required to consider.

The overall criterion is that, 'in all significant respects, the Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.' To assist auditors in reaching a conclusion on this overall criterion, the following sub-criteria are set out by the NAO:

- · Informed decision making
- Sustainable resource deployment
- Working with partners and other third parties

Commentary against each of the sub-criteria, and an indication of whether arrangements are in place, is provided below.

Sub-criteria	Commentary	Arrangements in place?
Informed decision making	We reviewed financial, performance and risk management reports throughout the year and attended meetings of the Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee. We did not identify any concerns regarding data quality or the decision-making process.	Yes
	We considered the following aspects of proper arrangements specified by the National Audit Office as part of our risk assessment, and, based on our risk-based approach, we did not identify any significant issues or exceptions in the Council's arrangements:	
	 a) Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance; 	
	 b) Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information to support informed decision making and performance management; 	
	c) Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities; and	
	d) Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control.	



5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION (CONTINUED)

tainable resource Ioyment Financial and performance reports demonstrate a history of achieving cost reductions without adversely affecting services and a balanced medium term financial strategy is in place up to 2023/24 provided a forecast budget shortfall of £1.3m can be met.	
We considered the following aspects of proper arrangements specified by the National Audit Office as part of our risk assessment, and, based on our risk-based approach, we did not identify any significant issues or exceptions in the Council's arrangements:	
 Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions; 	
 Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities; and 	
 Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities. 	
The Council has worked in partnership with a number of community and voluntary organisations to deliver its objectives. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to increase collaboration and build partnership arrangements to achieve improvements	Yes
We considered the following aspects of proper arrangements specified by the National Audit Office as part of our risk assessment, and, based on our risk-based approach, we did not identify any significant issues or exceptions in the Council's arrangements:	
a) Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities;	
b) Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities; and	
c) Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.	
	reductions without adversely affecting services and a balanced medium term financial strategy is in place up to 2023/24 provided a forecast budget shortfall of £1.3m can be met. We considered the following aspects of proper arrangements specified by the National Audit Office as part of our risk assessment, and, based on our risk-based approach, we did not identify any significant issues or exceptions in the Council's arrangements: a) Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions; b) Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities; and c) Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities. The Council has worked in partnership with a number of community and voluntary organisations to deliver its objectives. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to increase collaboration and build partnership arrangements to achieve improvements We considered the following aspects of proper arrangements specified by the National Audit Office as part of our risk assessment, and, based on our risk-based approach, we did not identify any significant issues or exceptions in the Council's arrangements: a) Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities; b) Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities; and c) Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of

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VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION (CONTINUED) 5.

Significant Value for Money risks

The NAO's guidance requires us to carry out work to identify whether or not a risk to the Value for Money conclusion exists. Risk, in the context of our Value for Money work, is the risk that we come to an incorrect conclusion rather than the risk of the arrangements in place at the Council being inadequate. As set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, for the 2018/19 financial year, we identified a significant risk to our VFM conclusion:

· Delivery of budgets

Our detailed findings are set out below. Based on the work performed, we are satisfied that the Council's arrangements are adequate.

Risk Work undertaken Conclusion

Delivery of budgets – The continual pressures on Local Government finances are well documented and led to challenging budget setting processes for 2018/19 and 2019/20. However the Council was able to approve balanced budgets. The budgets included the required S.151 Officer assurances relating to the robustness of the budgets and the adequacy of the level of reserves, but acknowledged the risks around the delivery and timing of savings initiatives and the need to address medium term budget shortfalls.

The 2018/19 budget outturn position shows that the Authority delivered an underspend of £0.911 million on its general fund and an underspend of £0.519 million on its housing revenue account.

There will be significant changes in Local Government finances over the next few years, which will culminate in a major change in the way Local Government is financed from 2020/21 onwards. These include the 2019 Spending Review, the Fair Funding Review and the introduction of 75% local retention of business rates (up from 50% retention). As a result, the need for savings (or income generation) will continue to have a significant impact on the Authority's financial resilience.

We have assessed whether any matters have come to our attention through the course of our audit that lead us to conclude that a risk to our 2018/19 VFM conclusion does indeed exist. We addressed this requirement by reviewing the Council's arrangements for developing and delivering its MTFP and for working in partnership.

We obtained sufficient assurance to conclude that the Council continues to have appropriate arrangements in place.



5. VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION (CONTINUED)

Matters kept under review

Before drawing our conclusion, we have:

- updated our risk assessment for any new or emerging issues through discussions with management and updating our review of committee reports;
- · reviewed the Council's Annual Governance Statement for any significant issues; and
- considered the Council's financial outturn position as presented in the financial statements.

From the work performed, no new significant VFM risks were identified and we have no matters to report.

Our overall Value for Money conclusion

We have completed our procedures and, as set out in our draft auditor's report included at Appendix B, we intend to issue an unqualified Value for Money conclusion for the 2018/19 financial year.



APPENDIX A DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

From:
David Hill
Head of Finance and Property
Bassetlaw District Council
Queens Buildings,
Potter Street,
Worksop,

To:
Mr David Hoose
Partner, Mazars LLP
Park View House,
58 The Ropewalk,
Nottingham,
NG1 5DW

S80 2AH

Date: 25 July 2019

The Council's management representation letter should be provided to us on client headed note paper.

Bassetlaw District Council - audit for year ended 31 March 2019

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Bassetlaw District Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the statement of accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the Code).

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy myself that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the statement of accounts and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the statement of accounts in accordance with the

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the statement of accounts such as records, documentation and other material:
- · additional information that you have requested from me for the purpose of the audit; and
- · unrestricted access to individuals within the Council you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Financial Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider them appropriate for the year.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date;
 and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

Executive summary Significant findings Internal control recommendations Summary of misstatements Value for Money conclusion Appendices



APPENDIX A DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (CONTINUED)

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Council have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with Code.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the statement of accounts may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Council involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Council's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances (including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements and guarantees) have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Charges on assets

All the Council's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

We have no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

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APPENDIX A DRAFT MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (CONTINUED)

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Council will cease to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Yours sincerely

Head of Finance and Property



APPENDIX B DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the members of Bassetlaw District Council Report on the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bassetlaw District Council for the year ended 31 March 2019, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Collection Fund and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 2018/19.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Bassetlaw District Council as at 31st March 2019 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applicable to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Head of Finance and Property' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Head of Finance and Property has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Head of Finance and Property is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



APPENDIX B DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Head of Finance and Property for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Head of Finance and Property 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 2018/19, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Head of Finance and Property is also responsible for such internal control as the Head of Finance and Property determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Head of Finance and Property is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless the Council is informed of the intention for dissolution without transfer of services or function to another entity. The Head of Finance and Property is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Council to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Authority's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.



29

APPENDIX B DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Conclusion on Bassetlaw District Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Bassetlaw District Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Basis for conclusion

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued in November 2017, as to whether the Council 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 this criterion as that necessary for us to consider in satisfying ourselves whether the Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council 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.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of Bassetlaw District Council, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 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 of the Council 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 members of the Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of Bassetlaw District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

[Signature]

David Hoose, Partner

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP Park View House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham, NG1 5DW

xx July 2019

Executive summary Significant findings Internal control recommendations Summary of misstatements Value for Money conclusion Appendices



APPENDIX C INDEPENDENCE

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

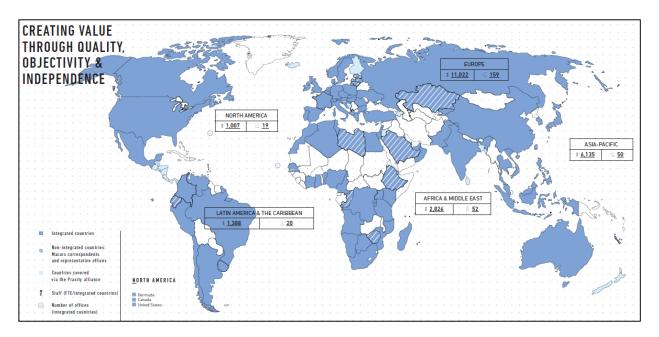
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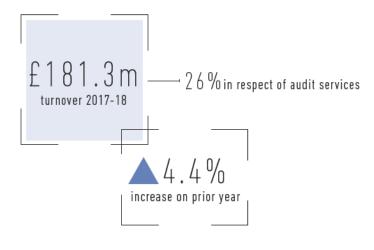
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Mazars in the UK







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