



The Annual Audit Letter for Mid Devon District Council

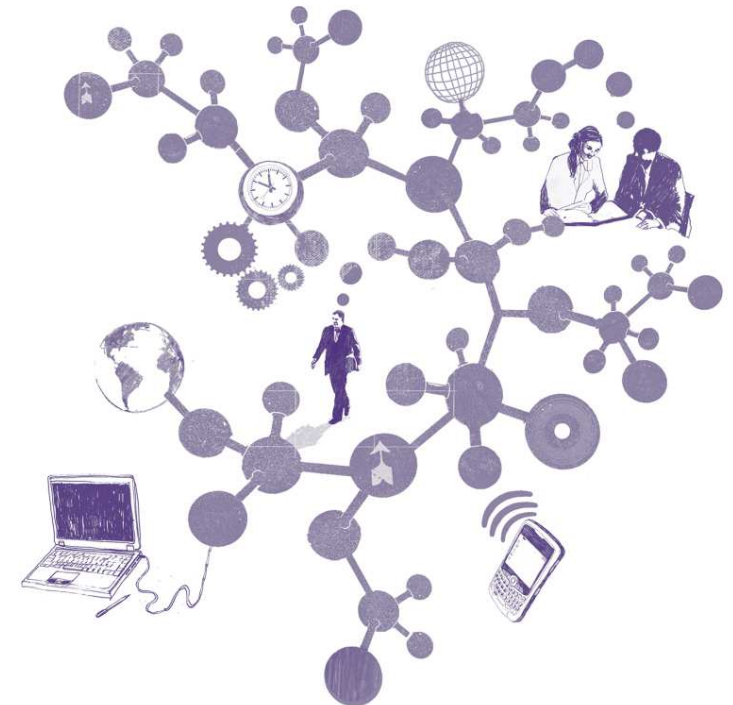
Year ended 31 March 2015

16 October 2015

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Key messages

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

The Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public. Our annual work programme, which includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work, has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on 24 March 2015 and was conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and other guidance issued by the Audit Commission and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Financial statements audit (including audit opinion)	<p>We reported our findings arising from the audit of the financial statements in our Audit Findings Report on 28 July 2015 to the Audit Committee. The key messages reported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The accounts were prepared early in order for us to ensure a faster delivery of the audit opinion within three weeks of receipt;• The accounts were free from significant errors; however,• We did identify two adjustments affecting the Council's reported financial position. Neither have been adjusted as both were considered not material by management. <p>We issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2014/15 financial statements on 29 July 2015, meeting the deadline set by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Our opinion confirms that the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the Council's financial position and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Council.</p>
Value for Money conclusion	<p>We issued an unqualified Value for Money conclusion for 2014/15 on 29 July 2015.</p> <p>On the basis of our work, and having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, we were satisfied that in all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2015.</p>

Key messages continued

Whole of Government Accounts	We reviewed the consolidation pack which the Council prepared to support the production of Whole of Government Accounts. We reported that the Council's pack was consistent with the audited financial statements.
Certification of housing benefit grant claim	We have not yet completed our work on the certification of the Council's 2014/15 housing benefit grant claim. The deadline for completion is 30 November 2015. We anticipate that this deadline will be met.
Audit fee	Our fee for 2014/15 was £63,600, excluding VAT which was in line with our planned fee for the year. Further detail is included within appendix B.

Appendix A: Key issues and recommendations

This appendix summarised the significant recommendations identified during the 2014/15 audit.

No.	Issue and recommendation	Priority	Management response/responsible officer	Due date
1	Where staff shortages occur for longer than a short period; Management review or oversight should be applied to ensure that invoices are raised as promptly as possible.	Medium	Management undertake constant review of posts/staffing levels to ensure all amounts due to the Council are invoiced promptly. There will also be a thorough review of pending S106s during mid March 2016 to be confident they are all raised in a timely fashion.	Immediate March 2016

Appendix B: Reports issued and fees

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

Fees	
	£
Council audit	63,600
Grant certification	10,374
Total fees (excluding VAT)	73,974

Fees for other services charged in 2014/15	
Service	Fees £
Tourist Information Centre, Tiverton Challenge.	1,500
Challenge to the variation of car parking charges.	2,000
Homes & Communities Agency – Decent Homes Backlog Funding claim	1,500

Reports issued	
Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	24 March 2015
Audit Findings Report	28 July 2015
Financial Resilience	November 2015
Certification Report	December 2015
Annual Audit Letter	16 October 2015



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