

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Issue of audit opinion on the financial statements**

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2017 issued on 28 September 2017 we reported that, in our opinion, the financial statements:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of St Albans City & District Council as at 31 March 2017 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

In our report dated 28 September 2017, we explained that we could not formally conclude our audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to decide on an objection received to the St Albans City & District Council's 2016/17 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office. We were satisfied that this work did not have a material effect on the financial statements. Until we completed our procedures to consider and decide on the objection, we were unable to certify that we have completed our Value for Money Conclusion on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017 and whether we needed to issue a report in the public interest in accordance with section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office. We have now completed this work.

### **Matters on which we report by exception**

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Council;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

## **Conclusion on St Albans City & District Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources**

### ***Authority's responsibilities***

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.

### ***Auditor's responsibilities***

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place 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 arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources***

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2016, as to whether the St Albans City & District 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 under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the St Albans City & District Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

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 St Albans City & District Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### ***Conclusion***

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the C&AG in November 2016, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, St Albans City & District Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

## **Certificate**

No matters have come to our attention since the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 that would have a material impact on the financial statements on which we gave an unqualified opinion and value for money conclusion.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of St Albans City & District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

NEIL.A.HARRIS

*Neil Harris (senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Appointed Auditor  
Luton  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

The maintenance and integrity of the St Albans City & District Council web site is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

