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24 September 2018

Dear Mr Anderson

**Completion of the audit for the year ended 31 March 2018**

We have completed our audit for the year ended 31 March 2018 and I have pleasure in enclosing the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The External Auditor's Certificate and Report is given in Section 3.

If there are any significant matters arising from the audit, they are summarised in the External Auditor's certificate in Section 3. If we have identified minor scope for improvement we have recorded this on page 2 of this letter. The Council must consider these matters and decide what action is required. In most cases this will be self-evident. In some instances we have referred to further guidance available, in particular, in the publication "*Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners' Guide (England) 2010*". This can be obtained via your NALC or SLCC branch, or downloaded free of charge.

**Action you are required to take**

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 set out what you must do at the conclusion of the audit. In summary, you are required to:

Publish (which must include publication on the authority's website) a statement:

- that the audit has been concluded and that the statement of accounts has been published;
- of the rights of inspection conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and
- the address at which, and the hours during which, those rights may be exercised.

- Keep copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return remains available for public access for a period of not less than five years beginning with the date on which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was first published.

*The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 do not specify the period the signed off accounts need to be on the council's website but this period must be reasonable.*

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***Minor scope for improvement in 2018/19***

The internal control objective (f), 'petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for', was ticked 'yes' by the internal auditor when no petty cash was held by the Council. The box should have been ticked 'not covered' or N/A and an explanation provided if no petty cash held. In future, the Council should ensure the annual return is accurate and complete.

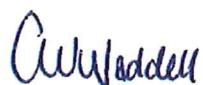
The initial bank reconciliation appeared not to balance because the figures at the bottom were actually from the ledger rather than cash book. The cash book figures should be as per Box 8 of the AGAR so the two sides of the reconciliation are the same without needing to refer to the separate reconciliation of boxes 7 and 8. In future, we recommend the Council ensures the cash book and net balances on the bank reconciliation agree with each other and Box 8 of the AGAR before submitting the bank reconciliation for audit.

***Audit fee***

We enclose our fee note for the audit, which is in accordance with the audit fee scales set by SAAA, and available at <http://www.locaudit.co.uk/fees.html>

We would be grateful if you could arrange for this to be paid at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



**Cameron Waddell**  
Partner