



TO COUNCILLOR:

G A Boulter
C S Gore
S Z Haq

P Joshi
J Kaufman
K J Loydall (Chair)

I K Ridley

I summon you to attend the following meeting for the transaction of the business in the agenda below.

Meeting: Audit Committee
Date & Time: Wednesday, 24 January 2024, 6.00 pm
Venue: Civic Suite 2, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ
Contact: Democratic Services
t: (0116) 257 2775
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Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Oadby
18 January 2024

Anne E Court
Chief Executive



Meeting ID: 2584

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Audit Committee

Wednesday, 24 January 2024, 6.00 pm

Printed and published by Democratic Services, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 24 January 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and Key Recommendation 2023/24**

Report Author(s): **Grant Patterson (External Audit - Director, Grant Thornton)
Bev Bull, (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To present the External Auditors Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and an Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation.
Report Summary:	The Annual Report details the auditors' commentary on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
Recommendation(s):	That the committee: 1) Notes the content of the report and appendices; and 2) Recommends the report and appendices to be noted by Full Council.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim Annual Auditors Report (2022/23) 2. Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation

1. Interim Annual Report for 2022/23

- 1.1. The 2022-23 Annual Auditor's Report does not identify any significant weaknesses within the Council's arrangements. However, seven new improvements recommendations were made in the areas of financial sustainability reflecting the growing challenges in that area. The Council has made progress in addressing recommendations from the prior year but five are being carried forward into 2023-24.

2. Key Recommendation Report for 2023/24

- 2.1. In line with the requirements of the NAO's Code of Audit practice and due to the increasing financial challenges that the Council is facing within 2023-24 and the deterioration in its financial position and the reported risk that it could run out of money in 2025/26 unless further significant and challenging savings are achieved the auditor's have issued an immediate report highlighting a significant weakness in financial sustainability arrangements and have made a key recommendation as set out in the report.



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 24 January 2024	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **External Audit Progress Report and Annual Audit Plan for 2022/23**

Report Author(s): **Grant Patterson (External Audit - Director, Grant Thornton)
Paul Harvey (External Audit - Manager, Grant Thornton)
Bev Bull (Head of Finance – Interim Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To present the External Auditor’s 2022/23 Audit Plan and Progress Report.
Report Summary:	The report and appendices include the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Audit Plan 2022/23: The Audit Risk Assessment 2022/23, which informs the External Audit Plan The External Auditor’s Progress Report January 2024
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 Sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers’ Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.

Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External Audit 2022-23 Audit Plan 2. Informing the Audit Risk Assessment (2022-23) 3. External Audit Progress Report January 2024

1. The 2022-23 External Audit Plan:

- Provides an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council for those charged with governance.
- Identifies those risks requiring special audit consideration and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error as being:
 - the presume risk of management override of control
 - valuation of pension liability
 - valuation of Council Dwellings
 - valuation of other land and buildings

2. The Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2022-23:

- This report contributes towards the effective two-way communication between Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's external auditors and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Audit Committee, as 'those charged with governance'. The report covers some important areas of the auditor risk assessment where they are required to make inquiries of the Audit Committee under auditing standards.

3. The Progress Report provides updates on the:

- proposed date for completion of the 2021-22 audit, and
- progress on the 2022-23 external audit, including areas where obtaining appropriate and reasonable audit evidence is behind anticipated timelines.

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council audit plan

Year ending 31 March 2023

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
January 2024

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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Council or all weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. 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.

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Key matters



National context

For the general population, rising inflation rates, in particular for critical commodities such as energy, food and fuel, is pushing many households into poverty and financial hardship, including those in employment. At a national government level, recent political changes have seen an emphasis on controls on spending, which in turn is placing pressure on public services to manage within limited budgets.

Local Government funding continues to be stretched with increasing cost pressures due to the cost of living crisis, including higher energy costs, increasing pay demands, higher agency costs and increases in supplies and services. Local authority front-line services play a vital role in protecting residents from rising costs; preventing the most vulnerable from falling into destitution and helping to build households long-term financial resilience. At a local level, councils are also essential in driving strong and inclusive local economies, through their economic development functions and measures like increasing the supply of affordable housing, integrating skills and employment provision, and prioritising vulnerable households to benefit from energy saving initiatives. Access to these services remains a key priority across the country, but there are also pressures on the quality of services. These could include further unplanned reductions to services and the cancellation or delays to major construction projects such as new roads, amenities and infrastructure upgrades to schools, as well as pothole filling.

Our recent value for money work has highlighted a number of governance and financial stability issues at a national level, which is a further indication of the mounting pressure on audited bodies to keep delivering services, whilst also managing transformation and making savings at the same time.

In planning our audit, we will take account of this context in designing a local audit programme which is tailored to your risks and circumstances.

Audit Reporting Delays

In a report published in January 2023 the NAO have highlighted that since 2017-18 there has been a significant decline in the number of local government body accounts including an audit opinion published by the deadlines set by government. The NAO outline a number of reasons for this and proposed actions. In our view, it is critical to early sign off that draft local authority accounts are prepared to a high standard and supported by strong working papers.

Key matters



Our Responses

- As a firm, we are absolutely committed to audit quality and financial reporting in the local government sector. Our proposed work and fee, as set out further in our Audit Plan, has been agreed with the Head of Finance (Acting S151 Officer).
- We will consider your arrangements for managing and reporting your financial resources as part of our audit in completing our Value for Money work.
- Our value for money work will also consider your arrangements relating to governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- We will continue to provide you and your Audit Committee with sector updates providing our insight on issues from a range of sources and other sector commentators via our Audit Committee updates.
- We hold annual financial reporting workshops for our audited bodies to access the latest technical guidance and interpretation, discuss issues with our experts and create networking links with other audited bodies to support consistent and accurate financial reporting across the sector.
- We have identified an increased incentive and opportunity for organisations in the public sector to manipulate their financial statements due to increasing financial pressures. We have identified a significant risk in regards to management override of control.

Introduction and headlines

Purpose

This document provides an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council ('the Council') for those charged with governance.

Respective responsibilities

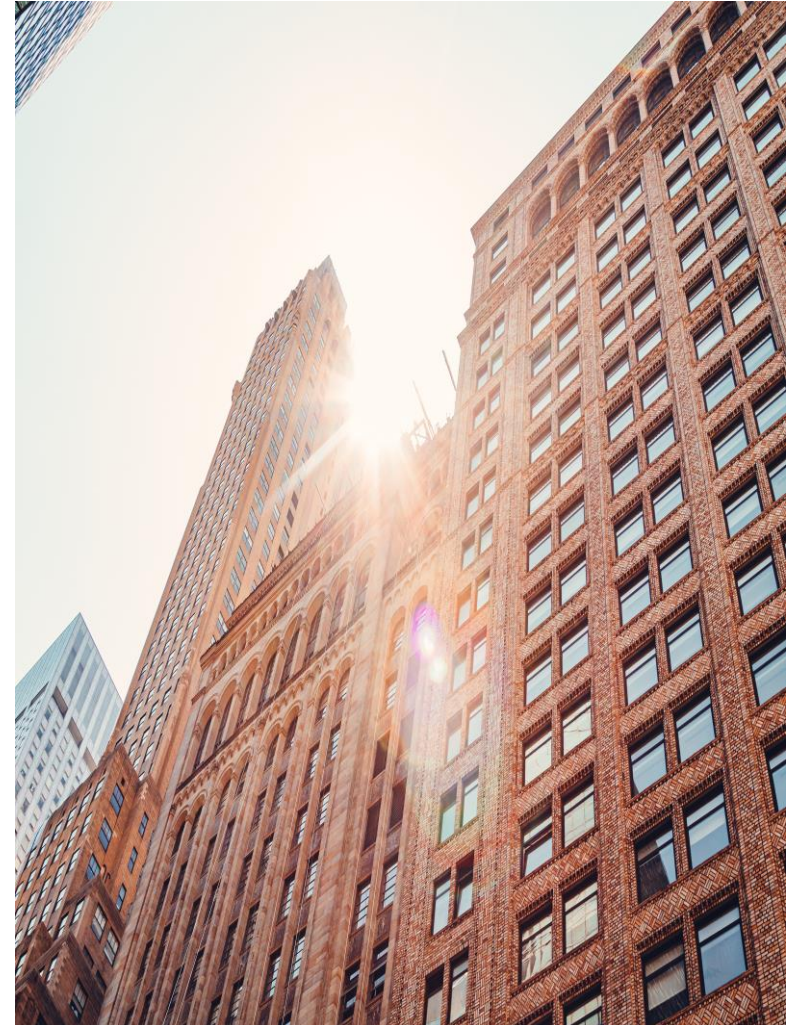
The National Audit Office ('the NAO') has issued a document entitled Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). This summarises where the responsibilities of auditors begin and end and what is expected from the audited body. Our respective responsibilities are also set out in the agreed in the Terms of Appointment and Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), the body responsible for appointing us as auditor of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. We draw your attention to both of these documents.

Scope of our audit

The scope of our audit is set in accordance with the Code and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). We are responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the Council's financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance (the Audit Committee); and we consider whether there are sufficient arrangements in place at the Council for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources. Value for money relates to ensuring that resources are used efficiently in order to maximise the outcomes that can be achieved.

The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or the Audit Committee of your responsibilities. 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 audit approach is based on a thorough understanding of the Council's business and is risk based.



Introduction and headlines

Significant risks

Those risks requiring special audit consideration and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error have been identified as:

- management override of control
- valuation of pension liability
- valuation of Council Dwellings
- valuation of other land and buildings

We will communicate significant findings on these areas as well as any other significant matters arising from the audit to you in our Audit Findings (ISA 260) Report.

Materiality

We have determined planning materiality to be £480k (PY £500k) for the Council, which equates to 2% of your prior year gross operating costs for the year. We are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance.

Clearly trivial has been set at £24k (PY £25k).

We will apply headline materiality of 1.55% to the total senior officer remuneration. We will apply this materiality on an individual officer level.

Total remuneration per Note 36 in the accounts is £567,000, and lower materiality (1.55%) for senior officers' note is therefore £8,300.

Value for Money arrangements

Our risk assessment regarding your arrangements to secure value for money has identified the following risks of significant weakness:

- Financial sustainability, specifically in respect of developed and developing savings plans

We will continue to update our risk assessment until we issue our Auditor's Annual Report.

New Auditing Standards

There are two auditing standards which have been significantly updated this year. These are ISA 315 (Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement) and ISA 240 (the auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements). We provide more detail on the work required later in this plan.

Audit logistics

Our interim visit took place in October 2023 and our final visit will take place from October 2023 to January 2024. Our key deliverables are this Audit Plan, our Audit Findings Report and Auditor's Annual Report.

Our proposed fee for the audit will be £59,544 (PY: £68,794) for the Council, subject to the Council delivering a good set of financial statements and working papers.

We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard (revised 2019) and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Significant risks identified

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as risks that, in the judgement of the auditor, require special audit consideration. In identifying risks, audit teams consider the nature of the risk, the potential magnitude of misstatement, and its likelihood. Significant risks are those risks that have a higher risk of material misstatement.

Risk	Reason for risk identification	Key aspects of our proposed response to the risk
Fraudulent revenue recognition (rebutted)	<p>Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a rebuttable 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 the 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 limited • the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable. 	We will continue to review revenue transactions as part of our audit ensuring that it remains appropriate to rebut the presumed risk of revenue recognition for the Council.
Fraudulent expenditure recognition (not applicable)	<p>Whilst not a presumed significant risk, Practice Note 10 states that as most public bodies are net spending bodies, then the risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to expenditure may be greater than the risk of material misstatements due to fraud related to revenue recognition.</p> <p>Having considered the risk factors set out in Practice Note 10 and the nature of the expenditure at the Council, we have determined that there is not a significant risk of misstatement arising from fraud in expenditure recognition, for the same reasons as set out above.</p>	We will continue to review material expenditure transactions as part of our audit ensuring that it remains appropriate to rebut the risk of expenditure recognition for the Council.

‘Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgmental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, due to either 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) 315)

Significant risks identified

Risk	Reason for risk identification	Key aspects of our proposed response to the risk
Valuation of other land and buildings	<p>This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.</p> <p>Additionally, management will need to ensure the carrying value in the Council's financial statements is not materially different from the current value or the fair value (for surplus assets) at the financial statements date, where a rolling programme is used.</p> <p>The Council holds its other land and buildings on its Balance Sheet at current value on the existing use valuation basis (EUV). These are revalued each year by either a desktop revaluation or by the major revaluation exercise which occurs every five years.</p> <p>Within the valuation of the Council's Other Land and Buildings, the valuer's estimation of the value has several key inputs, which the valuation is sensitive to. These include the build cost of relevant assets carried at depreciated historic cost and any judgements that have impacted this assessment and the condition of the current assets.</p> <p>For assets valued at existing use value and fair value, the key inputs into the valuation are the yields used in the valuation, including estimated future income from the asset.</p> <p>We therefore have identified that the accuracy of the key inputs driving the valuation of land and buildings as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work • evaluate the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert • write to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the CIPFA code are met • challenge the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding. • test revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Council's asset register and accounted for correctly • evaluate the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end.

Significant risks identified

Risk	Reason for risk identification	Key aspects of our proposed response to the risk
Management over-ride of controls	<p>Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities. The Council faces external scrutiny of its spending and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance.</p> <p>We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate the design effectiveness of management controls over journals • analyse the journals listing and determine the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals • test unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration • gain an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied made by management and consider their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence • evaluate the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions.
Valuation of council dwellings	<p>The Council contracts an expert to provide annual valuations of council dwellings based on guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. They are valued using a beacon approach, based on existing use value discounted by the relevant social housing factor (EUV-SH). Dwellings are divided into asset groups (a collection of properties with common characteristics) and further divided into archetype groups based on uniting characteristics material to their valuation, such as number of bedrooms. A sample property, the “beacon” is selected which is considered to be representative of the archetype group and a detailed inspection carried out. The valuation of this asset is then applied to all assets within its archetype.</p> <p>The key inputs into the valuation are the social housing factor, consideration of market movements and the determination of the beacons.</p> <p>This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions. We therefore have identified that the accuracy of the key inputs driving the valuation of council dwellings as a significant risk.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate management’s processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts, and the scope of their work • evaluate the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert • write to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the Code are met • challenge the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess the completeness and consistency with our understanding • engage our own valuer to assess the instructions issued by the Council to their valuer, the scope of the Council’s valuers’ work, the Council’s valuers’ reports and the assumptions that underpin the valuations • test revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Council’s asset register • evaluate the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different from current value at year end.

Significant risks identified

Risk	Reason for risk identification	Key aspects of our proposed response to the risk
Valuation of the pension fund net liability	<p>The pension fund net asset/liability, as reflected in the balance sheet as the net defined benefit asset/liability, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements.</p> <p>The pension fund net asset/liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions.</p> <p>The methods applied in the calculation of the IAS 19 estimates are routine and commonly applied by all actuarial firms in line with the requirements set out in the Code of practice for local government accounting (the applicable financial reporting framework). We have therefore concluded that there is not a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the methods and models used in their calculation.</p> <p>The source data used by the actuaries to produce the IAS 19 estimates is provided by administering authorities and employers. We do not consider this to be a significant risk as this is easily verifiable.</p> <p>The actuarial assumptions used are the responsibility of the entity but should be set on the advice given by the actuary. A small change in the key assumptions (discount rate, inflation rate, salary increase and life expectancy) can have a significant impact on the estimated IAS 19 liability.</p> <p>We therefore identified valuation of the pension fund net asset/liability as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, and a key audit matter.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Council's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of the associated controls; • evaluate the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work; • assess the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Council's pension fund valuation; • assess the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Council to the actuary to estimate the liability; • test the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; • undertake procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report; and • obtain assurances from the auditor of Leicestershire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements.

Management should expect engagement teams to challenge management in areas that are complex, significant or highly judgmental which may be the case for accounting estimates and similar areas. Management should also expect to provide to engagement teams with sufficient evidence to support their judgments and the approach they have adopted for key accounting policies referenced to accounting standards or changes thereto.

Where estimates are used in the preparation of the financial statements management should expect teams to challenge management's assumptions and request evidence to support those assumptions.

Other risks identified

We will communicate significant findings on these areas as well as any other significant matters arising from the audit to you in our Audit Findings Report.

Risk	Reason for risk identification	Key aspects of our proposed response to the risk
Operating expenditure	<p>Non-pay expenses on other goods and services also represents a significant percentage of the Council's operating expenses.</p> <p>Management uses judgement to estimate accruals of un-invoiced costs. We therefore identified completeness of non-pay expenses as a risk requiring particular audit attention.</p>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate the Council's accounting policies for recognition of non-pay expenditure streams for appropriateness • gain an understanding of the Council's system for accounting for non-pay expenditure • test a sample of balances included within trade and other payables • test a sample of payments immediately prior to and after the year end to ensure that appropriate cut-off has been applied, and therefore that the expenditure has been recognised in the correct period. • test a sample of expenditure to ensure it has been recorded accurately and is recognised in the appropriate financial accounting period.
Completeness, existence and accuracy of cash and cash equivalents	<p>The receipt and payment of cash represents a significant class of transactions occurring throughout the year, culminating in the year-end balance for cash and cash equivalents reported on the statement of financial position.</p> <p>Due to the significance of cash transactions to the Council, we identified the completeness, existence and accuracy of cash and cash equivalents as a risk requiring special audit consideration.</p>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree all period end bank balances to the general ledger and cash book; • agree cash and cash equivalents to the the bank reconciliation; • agree all material reconciling items and a sample of other items to sufficient and appropriate corroborative audit evidence; • obtain the bank reconciliation for the following month end and review the reconciling items against those included on the period end bank reconciliation; • write to the bank and obtain a bank balance confirmation; • agree the aggregate cash balance to the relevant financial statement disclosures.

'In respect of some risks, the auditor may judge that it is not possible or practicable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence only from substantive procedures. Such risks may relate to the inaccurate or incomplete recording of routine and significant classes of transactions or account balances, the characteristics of which often permit highly automated processing with little or no manual intervention. In such cases, the entity's controls over such risks are relevant to the audit and the auditor shall obtain an understanding of them.' [ISA (UK) 315]

Other matters

Other work

In addition to our responsibilities under the Code of Practice, we have a number of other audit responsibilities, as follows:

- We read your Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement to check that they are consistent with the financial statements on which we give an opinion and our knowledge of the Council.
- We carry out work to satisfy ourselves that disclosures made in your Annual Governance Statement are in line with requirements set by CIPFA.
- We carry out work on your consolidation schedules for the Whole of Government Accounts process in accordance with NAO group audit instructions.
- We consider our other duties under legislation and the Code, as and when required, including:
 - giving electors the opportunity to raise questions about your 2022/23 financial statements, consider and decide upon any objections received in relation to the 2022/23 financial statements (none have been received);
 - issuing a report in the public interest or written recommendations to the Council under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act).
 - application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under section 28 or a judicial review under section 31 of the Act
 - issuing an advisory notice under section 29 of the Act
- We certify completion of our audit.

Other material balances and transactions

Under International Standards on Auditing, 'irrespective of the assessed risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall design and perform substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance and disclosure'. All other material balances and transaction streams will therefore be audited. However, the procedures will not be as extensive as the procedures adopted for the risks identified in this report.

Our approach to materiality

Description

Determination

We have determined financial statement materiality based on a proportion of the gross expenditure of the Council for the financial year. Materiality at the planning stage of our audit is £480k, which equates to approximately 1.55% of your unaudited gross expenditure for the period.

Other factors

An item does not necessarily have to be large to be considered to have a material effect on the financial statements.

Reassessment of materiality

Our assessment of materiality is kept under review throughout the audit process.

Other communications relating to materiality we will report to the Audit Committee

Whilst our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our opinion on the financial statements as a whole, we nevertheless report to the Audit Committee any unadjusted misstatements of lesser amounts to the extent that these are identified by our audit work. Under ISA 260 (UK) 'Communication with those charged with governance', we are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance. ISA 260 (UK) defines 'clearly trivial' as matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria.

Planned audit procedures

We determine planning materiality in order to:

- establish what level of misstatement could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements
- assist in establishing the scope of our audit engagement and audit tests
- determine sample sizes and
- assist in evaluating the effect of known and likely misstatements in the financial statements

An item may be considered to be material by nature where it may affect instances when greater precision is required.

We have identified senior officer remuneration as a balance where we will apply a lower materiality level, as these are considered sensitive disclosures. We have set a materiality of £8.8k for this disclosure.

We reconsider planning materiality if, during the course of our audit engagement, we become aware of facts and circumstances that would have caused us to make a different determination of planning materiality.

We report to the Audit Committee any unadjusted misstatements of lesser amounts to the extent that these are identified by our audit work.

In the context of the Council, we propose that an individual difference could normally be considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £24k (PY £25k).

If management have corrected material misstatements identified during the course of the audit, we will consider whether those corrections should be communicated to the Audit Committee to assist it in fulfilling its governance responsibilities.

Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

	Amount	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	£480k	We determined that total expenditure in year was the most appropriate benchmark. Our risk assessment led us to set materiality at approximately 1.55% of prior year gross expenditure.
Materiality for specific transactions, balances or disclosures - senior officer remuneration	£8.8k	We identified senior management remuneration as a sensitive item and set a lower materiality of £8,800 for testing these items which is approximately 1.55% of expenditure.

~ Page 20 ~



IT audit strategy

In accordance with ISA (UK) 315 Revised, we are required to obtain an understanding of the relevant IT and technical infrastructure and details of the processes that operate within the IT environment. We are also required to consider the information captured to identify any audit relevant risks and design appropriate audit procedures in response. As part of this we obtain an understanding of the controls operating over relevant Information Technology (IT) systems i.e., IT general controls (ITGCs). Our audit will include completing an assessment of the design and implementation of relevant ITGCs. We say more about ISA 315 Revised on page 17.

The following IT systems have been judged to be in scope for our audit and based on the planned financial statement audit approach we will perform the indicated level of assessment:

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IT system	Audit area	Planned level IT audit assessment
Integra	Financial reporting	Documentation of IT general controls (comprising security management, technology acquisition, development and maintenance and technology infrastructure)
Academy	Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefits	Documentation of IT general controls (comprising security management, technology acquisition, development and maintenance and technology infrastructure)
Paris	Income Management	Documentation of IT general controls (comprising security management, technology acquisition, development and maintenance and technology infrastructure)

Value for Money arrangements

Approach to Value for Money work for the period ended 31 March 2023

The National Audit Office issued its latest Value for Money guidance to auditors in January 2023. The Code expects auditors to consider whether a body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are expected to report any significant weaknesses in the body's arrangements, should they come to their attention. In undertaking their work, auditors are expected to have regard to three specified reporting criteria. These are as set out below:

~ Page 22 ~



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.



Financial Sustainability

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.



Governance

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.

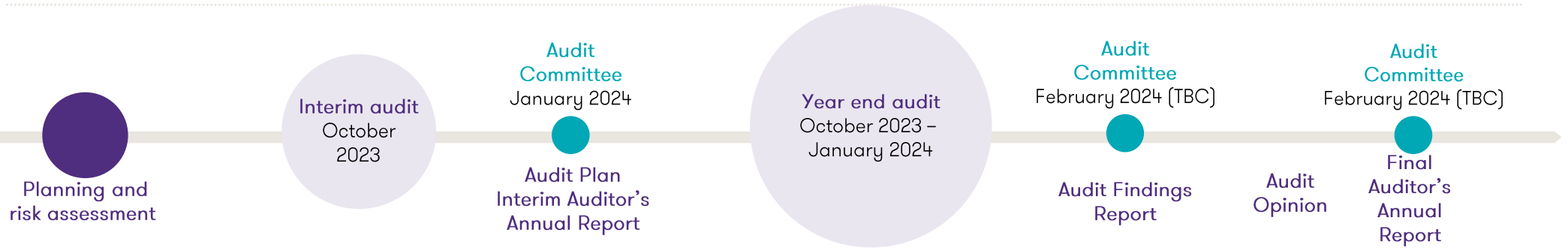
Our risk assessment regarding your arrangements to secure value for money has identified the following risks of significant weakness:

- Financial sustainability, specifically in respect of developed and developing savings plans

We will continue to update our risk assessment until we issue our Auditor's Annual Report.

We will continue our review of your arrangements, including reviewing your Annual Governance Statement, before we issue our auditor's annual report.

Audit logistics and team



~ Page 23 ~

Ross Corbett, Audit Incharge

Key contact for the finance team, responsible for the day to day running and delivery of the audit work

Paul Harvey, Engagement Manger

Manage the delivery of the audit, including reviewing work of the audit team and ensuring that our reports are clear, concise and understandable.

Grant Patterson, Key Audit Partner

Provides oversight of the delivery of the audit including regular engagement with the Audit Committee and senior officers

Audited Entity responsibilities

Where audited bodies do not deliver to the timetable agreed, we need to ensure that this does not impact on audit quality or absorb a disproportionate amount of time, thereby disadvantaging other audited bodies. Where the elapsed time to complete an audit exceeds that agreed due to an entity not meeting its obligations we will not be able to maintain a team on site. Similarly, where additional resources are needed to complete the audit due to an entity not meeting their obligations we are not able to guarantee the delivery of the audit to the agreed timescales. In addition, delayed audits will incur additional audit fees.

Our requirements

To minimise the risk of a delayed audit, you need to :

- ensure that you produce draft financial statements of good quality by the deadline you have agreed with us, including all notes, the Annual Report and the Annual Governance Statement
- ensure that good quality working papers are available at the start of the audit, in accordance with the working paper requirements schedule that we have shared with you
- ensure that the agreed data reports are available to us at the start of the audit and are reconciled to the values in the accounts, in order to facilitate our selection of samples for testing
- ensure that all appropriate staff are available on site throughout (or as otherwise agreed) the planned period of the audit
- respond promptly and adequately to audit queries.

Audit fees and updated Auditing Standards including ISA 315 Revised

In 2017, PSAA awarded a contract of audit for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council to begin with effect from 2018/19. The fee agreed in the contract was £x. Since that time, there have been a number of developments, particularly in relation to the revised Code and ISA's which are relevant for the 2022/23 audit. For details of the changes which impacted on years up to 2021/22 please see our prior year Audit Plans.

The major change impacting on our audit for 2022/23 is the introduction of ISA (UK) 315 (Revised) - Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement ('ISA 315'). There are a number of significant changes that will impact the nature and extent of our risk assessment procedures and the work we perform to respond to these identified risks. Key changes include:

- Enhanced requirements around understanding the Council's IT Infrastructure, IT environment. From this we will then identify any risks arising from the use of IT. We are then required to identify the IT General Controls ('ITGCs') that address those risks and test the design and implementation of ITGCs that address the risks arising from the use of IT.
- Additional documentation of our understanding of the Council's business model, which may result in us needing to perform additional inquiries to understand the Council's end-to-end processes over more classes of transactions, balances and disclosures.
- We are required to identify controls within a business process and identify which of those controls are controls relevant to the audit. These include, but are not limited to, controls over significant risks and journal entries. We will need to identify the risks arising from the use of IT and the general IT controls (ITGCs) as part of obtaining an understanding of relevant controls.
- Where we do not test the operating effectiveness of controls, the assessment of risk will be the inherent risk, this means that our sample sizes may be larger than in previous years.

These are significant changes which will require us to increase the scope, nature and extent of our audit documentation, particularly in respect of your business processes, and your IT controls. We will be unable to determine the full fee impact until we have undertaken further work in respect of the above areas. However, for an authority of your size, we estimate an initial increase of £5,000. We will let you know if our work in respect of business processes and IT controls identifies any issues requiring further audit testing. There is likely to be an ongoing requirement for a fee increase in future years, although we are unable yet to quantify that.

The other major change to Auditing Standards in 2022/23 is in respect of ISA 240 which deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements. This Standard gives more prominence to the risk of fraud in the audit planning process. We will let you know during the course of the audit should we be required to undertake any additional work in this area which will impact on your fee.

Taking into account the above, our proposed work and fee for 2022/23, as set out below, is detailed overleaf and has been agreed with the Strategic Director for Resources (S151 Officer).

Audit fees

	Actual Fee 2020/21	Estimated Fee 2021/22	Proposed fee 2022/23
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Audit	£99,709	£68,794	£59,544
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£99,709	£68,794	£59,544

Assumptions

In setting the above fees, we have assumed that the Council will:

- prepare a good quality set of accounts, supported by comprehensive and well-presented working papers which are ready at the start of the audit
- provide appropriate analysis, support and evidence to support all critical judgements and significant judgements made during the course of preparing the financial statements
- provide early notice of proposed complex or unusual transactions which could have a material impact on the financial statements.

Relevant professional standards

In preparing our fee estimate, we have had regard to all relevant professional standards, including paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the FRC's [Ethical Standard \[revised 2019\]](#) which stipulate that the Engagement Lead (Key Audit Partner) must set a fee sufficient to enable the resourcing of the audit with partners and staff with appropriate time and skill to deliver an audit to the required professional and Ethical standards.

Audit fees – detailed analysis

Scale fee published by PSAA for 2022/23		£32,794
<i>Ongoing issues from 2020/21 not included in the scale fee</i>		
Additional work on Value for Money (VfM) under new NAO Code		£12,500
Increased audit requirements of revised ISA 540		£3,000
Enhanced audit procedures on journals testing		£4,000
Enhanced work regarding revaluations		£1,500
Enhanced work regarding pensions		£1,500
<i>Ongoing issues from 2021/22</i>		
None		
<i>New issues for 2022/23</i>		
Enhanced audit procedures for Payroll – Change of circumstances		£500
Enhanced audit procedures for Collection Fund – reliefs testing		£750
Increased audit requirements of revised ISA 315		£3,000
Total proposed audit fees 2022/23 (excluding VAT)		£59,544

All variations to the scale fee will need to be approved by PSAA.

Independence and non-audit services

Auditor independence

Ethical Standards and ISA (UK) 260 require us to give you timely disclosure of all significant facts and matters that may bear upon the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm or covered persons. relating to our independence. We encourage you to contact us to discuss these or any other independence issues with us. We will also discuss with you if we make additional significant judgements surrounding independence matters.

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 Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements. Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Ethical Standard. For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Council.

Independence and non-audit services

Other services

The following other services provided by Grant Thornton were identified

The amounts detailed are fees agreed to-date for audit related and non-audit services to be undertaken by Grant Thornton UK LLP in the current financial year. These services are consistent with the Council's policy on the allotment of non-audit work to your auditors. Any changes and full details of all fees charged for audit related and non-audit related services by Grant Thornton UK LLP and by Grant Thornton International Limited network member Firms will be included in our Audit Findings report at the conclusion of the audit.

None of the services provided are subject to contingent fees.

Service	Fees £	Threats	Safeguards
Audit related			
Housing Benefit (Subsidy) Assurance Process 21/22 (June 2022 – January 2023)	14,500	For these two audit-related services. We consider that the following perceived threats may apply:	<p>The level of this recurring fee taken on their own are not considered a significant in comparison to the to the total fee for the audit of £59,544 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, each is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to any of them. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level.</p> <p>Our team have no involvement in the preparation of the for which is certified, and do not expect material misstatements in the financial statements to arise from the performance of the certification work. Although related income and expenditure is included within the financial statements, the work required in respect of certification is separate from the work required to audit the financial statements, and is performed after the audit of the financial statements has been completed.</p> <p>The scope of the work does not include making decisions on behalf of management or recommending or suggesting a particular course of action for management to follow. Our team perform these engagements in line with set instructions and reporting frameworks. Any amendments made as a result of our work are the responsibility of informed management</p>
Housing Benefit (Subsidy) Assurance Process 22/23 (January – March 2024)	18,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) • Self Review • Management 	
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return 21/22 (January – March 2023)	7,500		
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return 22/23 (January – March 2024)	10,000		
Non-audit related			
None			

Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings	
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	•		ISA (UK) 260, as well as other ISAs (UK), prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table here.
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, form, timing and expected general content of communications including significant risks and Key Audit Matters	•		
Confirmation of independence and objectivity of the firm, the engagement team members and all other indirectly covered persons	•	•	This document, the Audit Plan, outlines our audit strategy and plan to deliver the audit, while the Audit Findings will be issued prior to approval of the financial statements and will present key issues, findings and other matters arising from the audit, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.
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	•	•	
Significant matters in relation to going concern	•	•	We will communicate any adverse or unexpected findings affecting the audit on a timely basis, either informally or via an audit progress memorandum.
Significant findings from the audit		•	
Significant matters and issue arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		•	<p>Respective responsibilities</p> <p>As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), 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.</p> <p>The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.</p>
Significant difficulties encountered during the audit		•	
Significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit		•	
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		•	
Identification or suspicion of fraud (deliberate manipulation) involving management and/or which results in material misstatement of the financial statements (not typically council tax fraud)		•	
Non-compliance with laws and regulations		•	
Unadjusted misstatements and material disclosure omissions		•	
Expected modifications to the auditor's report, or emphasis of matter		•	

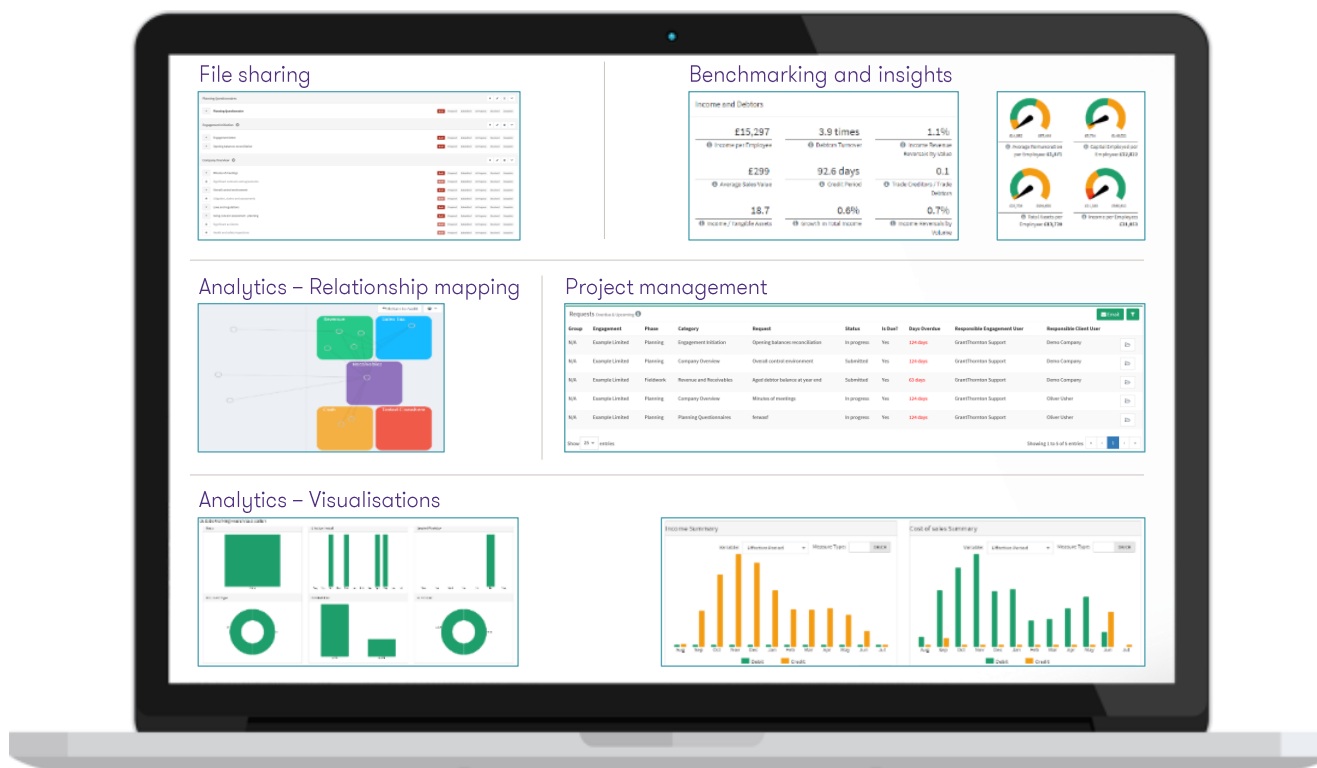
Appendices

Our digital audit experience

A key component of our overall audit experience is our comprehensive data analytics tool, which is supported by Inflo Software technology. This tool has a number of key functions within our audit process:

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Function	Benefits for you
Data extraction	Providing us with your financial information is made easier
File sharing	An easy-to-use, ISO 27001 certified, purpose-built file sharing tool
Project management	Effective management and oversight of requests and responsibilities
Data analytics	Enhanced assurance from access to complete data populations



Grant Thornton's Analytics solution is supported by Inflo Software technology

Our digital audit experience

A key component of our overall audit experience is our comprehensive data analytics tool, which is supported by Inflo Software technology. This tool has a number of key functions within our audit process:



Data extraction

- Real-time access to data
- Easy step-by-step guides to support you upload your data



File sharing

- Task-based ISO 27001 certified file sharing space, ensuring requests for each task are easy to follow
- Ability to communicate in the tool, ensuring all team members have visibility on discussions about your audit, reducing duplication of work



Project management

- Facilitates oversight of requests
- Access to a live request list at all times



Data analytics

- Relationship mapping, allowing understanding of whole cycles to be obtained quickly
- Visualisation of transactions, allowing easy identification of trends and anomalies

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How will analytics add value to your audit?

Analytics will add value to your audit in a number of ways. We see the key benefits of extensive use of data analytics within the audit process to be the following:

Improved fraud procedures using powerful anomaly detection

Being able to analyse every accounting transaction across your business enhances our fraud procedures. We can immediately identify high risk transactions, focusing our work on these to provide greater assurance to you, and other stakeholders.

Examples of anomaly detection include analysis of user activity, which may highlight inappropriate access permissions, and reviewing seldom used accounts, which could identify efficiencies through reducing unnecessary codes and therefore unnecessary internal maintenance.

Another product of this is identification of issues that are not specific to individual postings, such as training requirements being identified for members of staff with high error rates, or who are relying on use of suspense accounts.

More time for you to perform the day job

Providing all this additional value does not require additional input from you or your team. In fact, less of your time is required to prepare information for the audit and to provide supporting information to us.

Complete extracts from your general ledger will be obtained from the data provided to us and requests will therefore be reduced.

We provide transparent project management, allowing us to seamlessly collaborate with each other to complete the audit on time and around other commitments.

We will both have access to a dashboard which provides a real-time overview of audit progress, down to individual information items we need from each other. Tasks can easily be allocated across your team to ensure roles and responsibilities are well defined.

Using filters, you and your team will quickly be able to identify actions required, meaning any delays can be flagged earlier in the process. Accessible through any browser, the audit status is always available on any device providing you with the information to work flexibly around your other commitments.

The Grant Thornton Digital Audit – Info

A suite of tools utilised throughout the audit process

01

Collaborate

Information requests are uploaded by the engagement team and directed to the right member of your team, giving a clear place for files and comments to be uploaded and viewed by all parties.

02

Ingest

The general ledger and trial balance are uploaded from the finance system directly into Info. This enables samples, analytical procedures, and advance data analytics techniques to be performed on the information directly from your accounting records.

03

Cascade

A data analytic tool which visualises every transaction impacting revenue and receivables and highlights those impacting general ledger accounts outside of the normal course of business.

04

Detect

Journals interrogation software which puts every transaction in the general ledger through a series of automated tests. From this, transactions are selected which display several potential unusual or higher risk characteristics.

What you'll see

- Individual requests for all information required during the audit
- Details regarding who is responsible, what the deadline is, and a description of what is required
- Graphs and charts to give a clear overview of the status of requests on the engagement

What you'll see

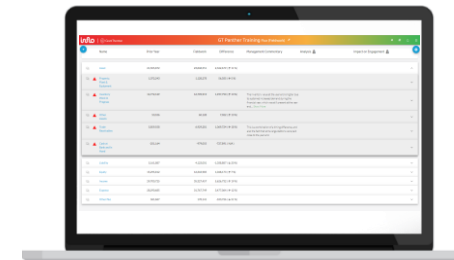
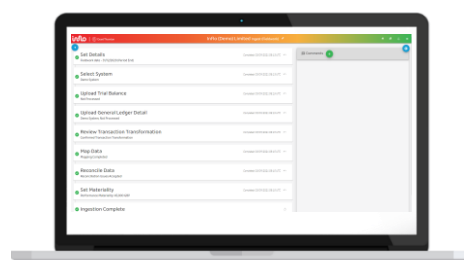
- A step by step guide regarding what information to upload.
- Tailored instructions to ensure the steps follow your finance system.

What you'll see

- A visualisation of your revenue process, highlighting potentially unusual transactions.
- Significant reduction in sample sizes, but testing focussed where there are potentially unusual transactions.

What you'll see

- Journals samples selected based on the specific characteristics of your business.
- A focussed approach to journals testing, seeking to only test and analyse transactions where there is the potential for risk or misstatement.



The Grant Thornton Digital Audit – Open Banking

Using Open Banking, auditors can receive all the details of your banking activity directly from the banks.

What is it?

- Open Banking is a set of standards and technologies that allows individuals and businesses to share their financial data securely with third parties of their choice. It allows individuals and companies to consent to their banks sharing transactional information directly with specific third parties – for example, with Grant Thornton.
- The process can take as little as 15 minutes from requesting your consent to receiving 100%-verified bank transactions in an Excel bank statement
- Grant Thornton's regulated Open Banking provider - Circit Limited – have successfully onboarded nearly 160 different banking institutions across the world and are adding more all the time.
- Grant Thornton has easy to follow 'how to' documents to get you setup and familiarised with this technology.



How it will work?

01 Enable Open Banking in your online banking portal

Circit has produced guides with screenshots for the largest UK banks to guide you in providing the required permission for your bank to respond to Open Banking requests.

Depending on your bank, this may be managed using 'roles', 'permissions' or 'authorisations.' Your bank administrator may be required to add these permissions or to approve the change.

If you encounter any difficulties or are unsure how to do this, ask your audit team for assistance.

02 Provide consent to share your transactions

Once you have provided the appropriate permission to your user account in Step 1, you can follow the link in the email from Circit. This will take you to Circit's website where you will be guided through the process of providing consent.

This registers your consent for your bank to share information with Circit. Circit will then make this information available to Grant Thornton for the purpose of your audit.

The benefits of Open Banking

01 Efficiency

First year setup can take as little as 15 minutes and in subsequent years you can securely provide bank data to your auditor in less than a minute.

Once consent is received, then data can be extracted in seconds. Moreover, as the data is direct from the banks, there is no need for audit teams to spend time doing verification procedures.

No more hassle with downloading multiple bank statements in PDF format.

02 Audit Quality

Laborious audit tests can be automated using Open Banking data, letting your auditors focus their attention on the complex and judgemental areas.

03 Security

Open banking is consent-driven technology by design. You control access and can revoke your consent at any time.

The Grant Thornton Digital Audit – Open Banking

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Is my data secure?

Open Banking Security

01 Highly regulated

Every participant providing Open Banking services must be regulated by the FCA.

02 Consent Driven

Your data cannot be accessed without your consent, which can be revoked at any time.

03 Connected to your bank

Your security details are never shared with any party other than your bank.

04 Secure APIs

Open Banking is run over rigorously tested APIs with bank-level security.

Circuit Security

01 ISO Certification

Circuit has ISO 27001 certification.

02 Encryption

All content is encrypted in transit and at rest, with keys safeguarded with FIPS 140-2 Level 2 validated Hardware Security Modules.

03 Secure infrastructure

Multi-layered security powered by Microsoft Azure, with active monitoring of physical data centres, infrastructure, firewalls and operations to protect your data at every level.

04 GDPR

All data processing is GDPR-compliant. Data is not stored outside the European Economic Area or countries deemed to have an 'adequate level of protection' as confirmed by the European Commission (and, hence, covered by the UK's own adequacy regulations).





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Informing the audit risk assessment for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council 2022/23

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Appendix 2

The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect your business or any weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. 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.

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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to contribute towards the effective two-way communication between Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's external auditors and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Audit Committee, as 'those charged with governance'. The report covers some important areas of the auditor risk assessment where we are required to make inquiries of the Audit Committee under auditing standards.

Background

Under International Standards on Auditing (UK), (ISA(UK)) auditors have specific responsibilities to communicate with the Audit Committee. ISA(UK) emphasise the importance of two-way communication between the auditor and the Audit Committee and also specify matters that should be communicated.

This two-way communication assists both the auditor and the Audit Committee in understanding matters relating to the audit and developing a constructive working relationship. It also enables the auditor to obtain information relevant to the audit from the Audit Committee and supports the Audit Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to the financial reporting process.

Communication

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to obtain an understanding of management processes and the Council's oversight of the following areas:

- General Enquiries of Management
- Fraud,
- Laws and Regulations,
- Related Parties,
- Going Concern, and
- Accounting Estimates.

Purpose

This report includes a series of questions on each of these areas and the response we have received from Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's management. The Audit Committee should consider whether these responses are consistent with its understanding and whether there are any further comments it wishes to make.

General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
<p>1. What do you regard as the key events or issues that will have a significant impact on the financial statements for 2022/23?</p>	<p>Changes in the pension valuations, repayment of unspent COVID grants, presentation of the Council Tax Rebate</p> <p>Material estimates will include, property valuation and pension valuations. OWBC uses experts to support our assessments of these estimates, however a small change in some of the underlying assumptions could have a significant impact on the financial statements.</p>
<p>2. Have you considered the appropriateness of the accounting policies adopted by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council? Have there been any events or transactions that may cause you to change or adopt new accounting policies? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>Yes, the Council continually review the appropriateness of our accounting policies, which are based on those included in the CIPFA code guidance. The audit committee of the council reviews and approves the accounting polices each year. There are no events that would give rise to us requiring to change any of the policies we adopted in the prior year.</p>
<p>3. Is there any use of financial instruments, including derivatives? If so, please explain</p>	<p>There is no use of any financial derivative instruments.</p>
<p>4. Are you aware of any significant transaction outside the normal course of business? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>There have not been any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.</p>

General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
5. Are you aware of any changes in circumstances that would lead to impairment of non-current assets? If so, what are they?	Impairment review of NCA is done as part of year end close down and we did not have any material impairments.
6. Are you aware of any guarantee contracts? If so, please provide further details	The Council does not have any guarantee contracts as of 22/23.
7. Are you aware of the existence of loss contingencies and/or un-asserted claims that may affect the financial statements? If so, please provide further details	No we are not aware of any.
8. Other than in house solicitors, can you provide details of those solicitors utilised by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council during the year. Please indicate where they are working on open litigation or contingencies from prior years?	<p>The council has utilised a number of solicitors during the year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Jacobson LLP • Freeth Cartwright LLP • Constantine Cannon LLP • Anthony Collins <p>We are not aware of any legal cases that would have a material affect on contingencies from prior years.</p>

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General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
9. Have any of the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's service providers reported any items of fraud, non-compliance with laws and regulations or uncorrected misstatements which would affect the financial statements? If so, please provide further details	We are not aware of any cases.
10. Can you provide details of other advisors consulted during the year and the issue on which they were consulted?	The following advisor were consulted during 2021/22 on the following issues/projects: Arlingclose Ltd – treasury management, borrowing and investment advice
11. Have you considered and identified assets for which expected credit loss provisions may be required under IFRS 9, such as debtors (including loans) and investments? If so, please provide further details	We have not identified any assets for which ECL provision would be deemed necessary.

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Fraud

Matters in relation to fraud

ISA (UK) 240 covers auditors responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements.

The primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud rests with both the Audit Committee and management. Management, with the oversight of the Audit Committee, needs to ensure a strong emphasis on fraud prevention and deterrence and encourage a culture of honest and ethical behaviour. As part of its oversight, the Audit Committee should consider the potential for override of controls and inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process.

As Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's external auditor, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. We are required to maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls.

As part of our audit risk assessment procedures we are required to consider risks of fraud. This includes considering the arrangements management has put in place with regard to fraud risks including:

- assessment that the financial statements could be materially misstated due to fraud,
- process for identifying and responding to risks of fraud, including any identified specific risks,
- communication with the Audit Committee regarding its processes for identifying and responding to risks of fraud, and
- communication to employees regarding business practices and ethical behaviour.

We need to understand how the Audit Committee oversees the above processes. We are also required to make inquiries of both management and the Audit Committee as to their knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. These areas have been set out in the fraud risk assessment questions below together with responses from Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's management.

Fraud risk assessment

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Question	Management response
<p>1. Has Oadby & Wigston Borough Council assessed the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements due to fraud?</p> <p>How has the process of identifying and responding to the risk of fraud been undertaken and what are the results of this process?</p> <p>How do the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's risk management processes link to financial reporting?</p>	<p>Yes this has been assessed.</p> <p>Internal audit provide a strategic and operational risk management service for the Council. They regularly meet staff to review processes in each of the departments.</p> <p>The Risk management information is reported to Internal audit</p>
<p>2. What have you determined to be the classes of accounts, transactions and disclosures most at risk to fraud?</p>	<p>The highest perceived areas of fraud risk are procurement and treasury-related transactions and covid grants related fraud.</p> <p>Creditors –duplicated invoices, incorrect bank details, duplicated payments</p>
<p>3. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud, errors or other irregularities either within Oadby & Wigston Borough Council as a whole, or within specific departments since 1 April 2022? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>We are not aware of any fraud since 1st April 2022</p>

Fraud risk assessment

Question	Management response
<p>4. As a management team, how do you communicate risk issues (including fraud) to those charged with governance?</p>	<p>The Council has a Policies register which is maintained.</p> <p>Internal controls such as segregation of duties and relevant authority levels are in place and managed.</p> <p>A specific fraud risk is included in the Council's Strategic Risk Register and this is monitored and reported to Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>At the time of responding to this document, an internal audit report is under review following assurance work in respect of fraud arrangements.</p>
<p>5. Have you identified any specific fraud risks? If so, please provide details</p> <p>Do you have any concerns there are areas that are at risk of fraud?</p> <p>Are there particular locations within Oadby & Wigston Borough Council where fraud is more likely to occur?</p>	<p>No specific fraud risk has been identified</p> <p>We do not have any concerns there are areas at risk of fraud.</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>6. What processes do Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have in place to identify and respond to risks of fraud?</p>	<p>We have a number of procedures in place for reporting fraud, including an online referral form, a hotline and a whistle blowing process. All fraud referrals are risk assessed. The findings of internal audit work on fraud are reported with appropriate disciplinary and or systems related recommendations.</p>

Fraud risk assessment

Question	Management response
<p>7. How do you assess the overall control environment for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the existence of internal controls, including segregation of duties; and the process for reviewing the effectiveness the system of internal control? <p>If internal controls are not in place or not effective where are the risk areas and what mitigating actions have been taken?</p> <p>What other controls are in place to help prevent, deter or detect fraud?</p> <p>Are there any areas where there is a potential for override of controls or inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process (for example because of undue pressure to achieve financial targets)? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>The Council does have various internal controls in place which are effective, These are reviewed by our Internal audit team and brought to the attention of Senior Management and the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Our financial reporting processes include several controls from layers of checking through to reviews prior to finalisation of our reporting. All financial monitoring reports undergo differing levels of review before publication and public reporting.</p>
<p>8. Are there any areas where there is potential for misreporting? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>None known but there are controls and processes in place to mitigate any potential misreporting.</p>

Fraud risk assessment

Question	Management response
<p>9. How does Oadby & Wigston Borough Council communicate and encourage ethical behaviours and business processes of it's staff and contractors?</p> <p>How do you encourage staff to report their concerns about fraud?</p> <p>What concerns are staff expected to report about fraud? Have any significant issues been reported? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>This is communicated through the policies and procedures published on the Intranet. The staff code of conduct forms part of the contract of employment. The code sets out the standard of conduct and reflects the values and behaviours that all employees are expected to follow.</p> <p>Staff can report matters to their line manager, Senior Manager or to HR on any concerns.</p> <p>The Council has an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, a Whistleblowing Policy and an e-learning fraud awareness in our Learning Pool Portal in place.</p> <p>No significant issues have been reported in the year</p>
<p>10. From a fraud and corruption perspective, what are considered to be high-risk posts?</p> <p>How are the risks relating to these posts identified, assessed and managed?</p>	<p>Those involved in the procurement of goods and services and managing contracts, those involved in the planning process and those involved in the processing of high value transactions Those who can raise payments on Bankline.</p> <p>The Council migrates risk by the segregation of duties for posts and electronic authorisation processes. Furthermore, the procedures and policies are regularly reviewed.</p>
<p>11. Are you aware of any related party relationships or transactions that could give rise to instances of fraud? If so, please provide details</p> <p>How do you mitigate the risks associated with fraud related to related party relationships and transactions?</p>	<p>We are not aware of any related party relationships or transactions that could give rise to instances of fraud. Senior officers are required to complete Register of Interests form annually and members are required to declare any relevant interests at Board and Committee meetings.</p>

Fraud risk assessment

Question	Management response
<p>12. What arrangements are in place to report fraud issues and risks to the Audit Committee?</p> <p>How does the Audit Committee exercise oversight over management's processes for identifying and responding to risks of fraud and breaches of internal control?</p> <p>What has been the outcome of these arrangements so far this year?</p>	<p>The audit committee reviews the risk management reports and receives regular updates. Challenges are made to officer if there are areas of concern. Further information or an investigation could be requested.</p>
<p>13. Are you aware of any whistle blowing potential or complaints by potential whistle blowers? If so, what has been your response?</p>	<p>No, we are not aware of any or potential complaints by whistle blowers.</p>
<p>14. Have any reports been made under the Bribery Act? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>No, we are not aware of any reports made under the Bribery Act.</p>

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Law and regulations

Matters in relation to laws and regulations

ISA (UK) 250 requires us to consider the impact of laws and regulations in an audit of the financial statements.

Management, with the oversight of the Audit Committee, is responsible for ensuring that Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations, including those that determine amounts in the financial statements.

As auditor, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error, taking into account the appropriate legal and regulatory framework. As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to make inquiries of management and the Audit Committee as to whether the body is in compliance with laws and regulations. Where we become aware of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance we need to gain an understanding of the non-compliance and the possible effect on the financial statements.

Risk assessment questions have been set out below together with responses from management.

Impact of laws and regulations

Question	Management response
<p>1. How does management gain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?</p> <p>What arrangements does Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have in place to prevent and detect non-compliance with laws and regulations?</p> <p>Are you aware of any changes to the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's regulatory environment that may have a significant impact on the Council's financial statements?</p>	<p>CMT Managers are responsible for ensuring that laws and regulations relevant to their services are observed including any changes to the regulatory environment.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer and the Council's legal team advise the Council's leadership, councillors and departments on changes to the legal and regulatory environment that impact on the Council. The Council also operates a Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT).</p> <p>We are not aware of any changes to the regulatory environment which will have a significant impact on the Council's financial statements.</p>
<p>2. How is the Audit Committee provided with assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?</p>	<p>The Council presents it's assurance that arrangements are in place in line with all relevant laws and regulations as part of it's Annual Governance Statement, which is approved by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Audit Committee also receive guidance on the relevant laws and regulations the Council have to comply to/</p>
<p>3. Have there been any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulation since 1 April 2021 with an on-going impact on the 2021/22 financial statements? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>We are no aware of any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations since 1 April 2021</p>
<p>4. Are there any actual or potential litigation or claims that would affect the financial statements? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>There are no actual or potential litigation or claims that would affect the 2021/22 financial statements.</p>

Impact of laws and regulations

Question	Management response
5. What arrangements does Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have in place to identify, evaluate and account for litigation or claims?	Any insurances claims are recorded on a hub and all legal claims are registered and maintained by our legal department. The Council's Monitoring Officer is consulted on a regular basis to ensure the appropriate awareness is in place.
6. Have there been any reports from other regulatory bodies, such as HM Revenues and Customs, which indicate non-compliance? If so, please provide details	We are not aware of any reports of non-compliance

Related Parties

Matters in relation to Related Parties

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council are required to disclose transactions with bodies/individuals that would be classed as related parties. These may include:

- bodies that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
- associates;
- joint ventures;
- a body that has an interest in the authority that gives it significant influence over the Council;
- key management personnel, and close members of the family of key management personnel, and
- post-employment benefit plans (pension fund) for the benefit of employees of the Council, or of any body that is a related party of the Council.

A disclosure is required if a transaction (or series of transactions) is material on either side, i.e. if a transaction is immaterial from the [type of body]'s perspective but material from a related party viewpoint then the Council must disclose it.

ISA (UK) 550 requires us to review your procedures for identifying related party transactions and obtain an understanding of the controls that you have established to identify such transactions. We will also carry out testing to ensure the related party transaction disclosures you make in the financial statements are complete and accurate.

Related Parties

Question	Management response
<p>1. Have there been any changes in the related parties including those disclosed in Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's 2021/22 financial statements?</p> <p>If so please summarise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nature of the relationship between these related parties and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council whether Oadby & Wigston Borough Council has entered into or plans to enter into any transactions with these related parties the type and purpose of these transactions 	<p>There have been no material changes in the related parties.</p>
<p>2. What controls does Oadby & Wigston Borough Council have in place to identify, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?</p>	<p>Any new related parties will be identified through the preparation of the Council's year-end accounts.</p>
<p>3. What controls are in place to authorise and approve significant transactions and arrangements with related parties?</p>	<p>Transactions with related parties are subject to the same authorisation and approval arrangements as other transactions, that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a delegated authority list which identifies officers financial limit levels of authority to approve expenditure. Expenditure above an officer's authorisation limit would then be allocated to an officer with a higher limit. The S151 Officer is responsible for approving officers' limits. These limits are periodically reviewed with the statutory officers to ensure they are appropriate.
<p>4. What controls are in place to authorise and approve significant transactions outside of the normal course of business?</p>	<p>All transactions including any outside the normal course of business are subject to the same authorisation and approval arrangements including controls enforced through adherence to the financial procedure rules.</p>

Going Concern

Matters in relation to Going Concern

The audit approach for going concern is based on the requirements of ISA (UK) 570, as interpreted by Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020). It also takes into account the National Audit Office's Supplementary Guidance Note (SGN) 01: Going Concern – Auditors' responsibilities for local public bodies.

Practice Note 10 confirms that in many (but not all) public sector bodies, the use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor's time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the body's services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist.

For this reason, a straightforward and standardised approach to compliance with ISA (UK) 570 will often be appropriate for public sector bodies. This will be a proportionate approach to going concern based on the body's circumstances and the applicable financial reporting framework. In line with Practice Note 10, the auditor's assessment of going concern should take account of the statutory nature of the body and the fact that the financial reporting framework for local government bodies presume going concern in the event of anticipated continuation of provision of the services provided by the body. Therefore, the public sector auditor applies a 'continued provision of service approach', unless there is clear evidence to the contrary. This would also apply even where those services are planned to transfer to another body, as in such circumstances, the underlying services will continue.

For many public sector bodies, the financial sustainability of the body and the services it provides are more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Financial sustainability is a key component of value for money work and it is through such work that it will be considered.

Going Concern

Question	Management response
<p>1. What processes and controls does management have in place to identify events and / or conditions which may indicate that the statutory services being provided by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will no longer continue?</p>	<p>Quarterly reporting to Service Delivery Committee (non-financial performance) and Policy, Finance and Development Committee (financial performance) ensures oversight of all issues. Monthly service performance and financial monitoring is conducted monthly. The Senior Leadership Team meets weekly and Corporate Management Team meets fortnightly.</p>
<p>2. Are management aware of any factors which may mean for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council that either statutory services will no longer be provided or that funding for statutory services will be discontinued? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>We are not aware at this point of any factors that would cause us to ceases providing statutory services.</p>
<p>3. With regard to the statutory services currently provided by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, does Oadby & Wigston Borough Council expect to continue to deliver them for the foreseeable future, or will they be delivered by related public authorities if there are any plans for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council to cease to exist?</p>	<p>We expect the Council to deliver services for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>4. Are management satisfied that the financial reporting framework permits Oadby & Wigston Borough Council to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis? Are management satisfied that preparing financial statements on a going concern basis will provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements?</p>	<p>Management is satisfied that OWBC is able to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis, and that it be a true and fair view.</p>

Accounting estimates

Matters in relation to accounting estimates

ISA (UK) 540 (Revised December 2018) requires auditors to understand and assess a body's internal controls over accounting estimates, including:

- The nature and extent of oversight and governance over management's financial reporting process relevant to accounting estimates;
- How management identifies the need for and applies specialised skills or knowledge related to accounting estimates;
- How the body's risk management process identifies and addresses risks relating to accounting estimates;
- The body's information system as it relates to accounting estimates;
- The body's control activities in relation to accounting estimates; and
- How management reviews the outcomes of previous accounting estimates.

As part of this process auditors also need to obtain an understanding of the role of those charged with governance, which is particularly important where the estimates have high estimation uncertainty, or require significant judgement.

Specifically do Audit Committee members:

- Understand the characteristics of the methods and models used to make the accounting estimates and the risks related to them;
- Oversee management's process for making accounting estimates, including the use of models, and the monitoring activities undertaken by management; and
- Evaluate how management made the accounting estimates?

We would ask the Audit Committee to satisfy itself that the arrangements for accounting estimates are adequate.

Accounting Estimates - General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
1. What are the classes of transactions, events and conditions, that are significant to the financial statements that give rise to the need for, or changes in, accounting estimate and related disclosures?	The valuation of the Councils assets such as housing stock or property's it owns would be the most significant item in the accounts
2. How does the Council's risk management process identify and address risks relating to accounting estimates?	<p>The operational risk management process will highlight any changes to circumstances which could lead to an assessment of accounting estimates and/or assumptions may require revision.</p> <p>Each area is subject to robust scrutiny as part of the Year-end Accounts closedown process and all accounting estimates are reviewed.</p>
3. How does management identify the methods, assumptions or source data, and the need for changes in them, in relation to key accounting estimates?	Review of data and information required are done as part of setting the closedown timetable. Reviews of External and Internal comments on any points that need to be addressed to ensure or enhance the accuracy data, methods used for accounting estimates
4. How do management review the outcomes of previous accounting estimates?	Accounting estimates will be reviewed as the natural course of some of these estimates where historical data/performance provides the starting point of estimation. Other areas of estimation are subject to valuation from first principles each year
5. Were any changes made to the estimation processes in 2022/23 and, if so, what was the reason for these?	No changes in year.

Accounting Estimates - General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
6. How does management identify the need for and apply specialised skills or knowledge related to accounting estimates?	Review of the finance team skills and assessing any training or supervision required to ensure specialised skills are applied and there is an appropriate level of knowledge and where external support is required, this is engaged as necessary.
7. How does the Council's determine what control activities are needed for significant accounting estimates, including the controls at any service providers or management experts?	Follows CIPFA code of practice guidance and financial regulations. There is a degree of reliance on the work of externally procured experts although all accounting estimated will be subject to a test of reasonableness. For the key areas where we use external experts, pension actuarial and property valuation, there are industry wide standards which provide a high degree of quality assurance.
8. How does management monitor the operation of control activities related to accounting estimates, including the key controls at any service providers or management experts?	External experts provide comprehensive reports detailing the basis and output of their work which provides management the facility to understand and challenge accounting estimates.
9. What is the nature and extent of oversight and governance over management's financial reporting process relevant to accounting estimates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management's process for making significant accounting estimates - The methods and models used - The resultant accounting estimates included in the financial statements. 	Work produced is reviewed by management and reviewed and challenged by the audit committee. CIPFA guidance and use of standard models used by other local authorities. Adhere to standard accounting practices

Accounting Estimates - General Enquiries of Management

Question	Management response
10. Are management aware of any transactions, events, conditions (or changes in these) that may give rise to recognition or disclosure of significant accounting estimates that require significant judgement (other than those in Appendix A)? If so, what are they?	Management would be made aware of any key issues by S151 Officer of any key issues, events etc
11. Why are management satisfied that their arrangements for the accounting estimates, as detailed in Appendix A, are reasonable?	Yes, they are reasonable.
12. How is the Audit Committee provided with assurance that the arrangements for accounting estimates are adequate ?	Audit committee is consulted on accounting estimates and S151 Officer meets periodically with the Chair of that committee to discuss issues.



Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Audit Progress Report

**Years ending 31 March 2022 &
2023**

January 2024

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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Authority or all weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. 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.

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Introduction

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This paper provides the Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

The paper also includes:

- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you as a local authority; and
- includes a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider (these are a tool to use, if helpful, rather than formal questions requiring responses for audit purposes)

Members of the Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website, where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications <https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/services/public-sector-services/>

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either your Engagement Lead or Engagement Manager.

Progress at January 2024

Financial Statements Audit 2021/22

At the time of writing this progress report we are currently completing our final checks before issuing our audit opinion. We expect to issue our audit opinion before the Audit Committee on the 24 January 2024 and will provide a verbal update to confirm whether this has occurred.

Financial Statements Audit 2022/23

We have finished our audit planning and are presenting our Audit Plan as a separate agenda item.

We are making progress on auditing your financial statements. Our progress is behind where we expected to be. This is due to a number of issues, including:-

- Obtaining a detailed breakdown of the Debtor and Creditor figures in the financial statements
- Receiving responses to our enquiries with the Valuer and appropriate evidence to support the revaluations of land and buildings during the year.
- Receiving appropriate evidence to support our testing of a sample of grants received during the year, and
- Receiving responses to our questions on the IT control environment.

We are working with officers to resolve these issues and are aiming to issue our audit opinion before your Head of Finance (interim s151 officer) leaves in February.

Audit Deliverables

2021/22 Deliverables	Planned Date	Status
<p>Audit Plan</p> <p>We are required to issue a detailed audit plan to the Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Authority's 2021/22 financial statements and the Auditor's Annual Report on the Authority's Value for Money arrangements.</p>	November 2022	Complete
<p>Audit Findings Report</p> <p>The Audit Findings Report will be reported to the November Audit Committee.</p>	January 2024	Complete
<p>Auditor's Report</p> <p>This includes the opinion on your financial statements.</p>	January 2024	Imminent
<p>Auditor's Annual Report</p> <p>This Report communicates the key issues arising from our Value for Money work.</p>	January 2024	Interim issued January 2023
2022/23 Deliverables	Planned Date	Status
<p>Audit Plan</p> <p>We are required to issue a detailed audit plan to the Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Authority's 2021/22 financial statements and the Auditor's Annual Report on the Authority's Value for Money arrangements.</p>	January 2024	Included in the Audit Committee Agenda
<p>Audit Findings Report</p> <p>The Audit Findings Report will be reported to the November Audit Committee.</p>	February 2024	Not yet due
<p>Auditors Report</p> <p>This includes the opinion on your financial statements.</p>	February 2024	Not yet due
<p>Auditor's Annual Report</p> <p>This Report communicates the key issues arising from our Value for Money work.</p>	January 2024	Included in the Audit Committee Agenda



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