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Annual Audit Letter 2012/13

Charnwood Borough Council

October 2013



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This report is addressed to the Authority and has been prepared for the sole use of the Authority. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties. The Audit Commission has issued a document entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies*. This summarises where the responsibilities of auditors begin and end and what is expected from the audited body. We draw your attention to this document which is available on the Audit Commission's website at www.auditcommission.gov.uk.

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Neil Bellamy, the appointed engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact Trevor Rees on 0161 246 4000, or by email to trevor.rees@kpmg.co.uk, who is the national contact partner for all of KPMG's work with the Audit Commission. After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access the Audit Commission's complaints procedure. Put your complaint in writing to the Complaints Unit Manager, Audit Commission, 3rd Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF or by email to complaints@audit-commission.gsi.gov.uk. Their telephone number is 03034448330.

This report summarises the key findings from our 2012/13 audit of Charnwood Borough Council (the Authority).

Although this letter is addressed to the Members of the Authority, it is also intended to communicate these issues to key external stakeholders, including members of the public.

VFM conclusion	<p>We issued an unqualified value for money (VFM) conclusion for 2012/13 on 19 September 2013.</p> <p>This means we are satisfied that you have proper arrangements for securing financial resilience and challenging how you secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>To arrive at our conclusion we looked at your financial governance, financial planning and financial control processes, as well as how you are prioritising resources and improving efficiency and productivity.</p>
VFM risk areas	<p>Our initial risk assessment took into account the Authority's key business risks which are relevant to our VFM conclusion. We specifically considered the actions being taken by the Authority to achieve the savings identified as required within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>The Authority predominantly delivered its 2012/13 plans with a small underspend being recorded against budget. A balanced budget has been set for 2013/14 although significant further savings need to be identified for 2014/15. We were satisfied that sufficient work in relation to this risk was being carried out by the Authority to mitigate the audit risks for our VFM conclusion. We concluded that we did not need to carry out any specific additional work ourselves.</p>
Audit opinion	<p>We issued an unqualified opinion on your financial statements on 19 September 2013. This means that we believe the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and of its expenditure and income for the year.</p>
Financial statements audit	<p>We did not identify any material misstatements.</p> <p>We reported one non-material unadjusted audit difference; members have told us why they consider the accounts should not be adjusted.</p> <p>We did not make any recommendation in our <i>Report to Those Charged with Governance</i>.</p>
Annual Governance Statement	<p>We reviewed your <i>Annual Governance Statement</i> and concluded that it was consistent with our understanding of the Authority.</p>
Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We reviewed the consolidation pack which the Authority prepared to support the production of Whole of Government Accounts by HM Treasury. We reported that pension liabilities and property, plant & equipment disclosed in the consolidation pack is consistent with the audited statutory accounts.</p>

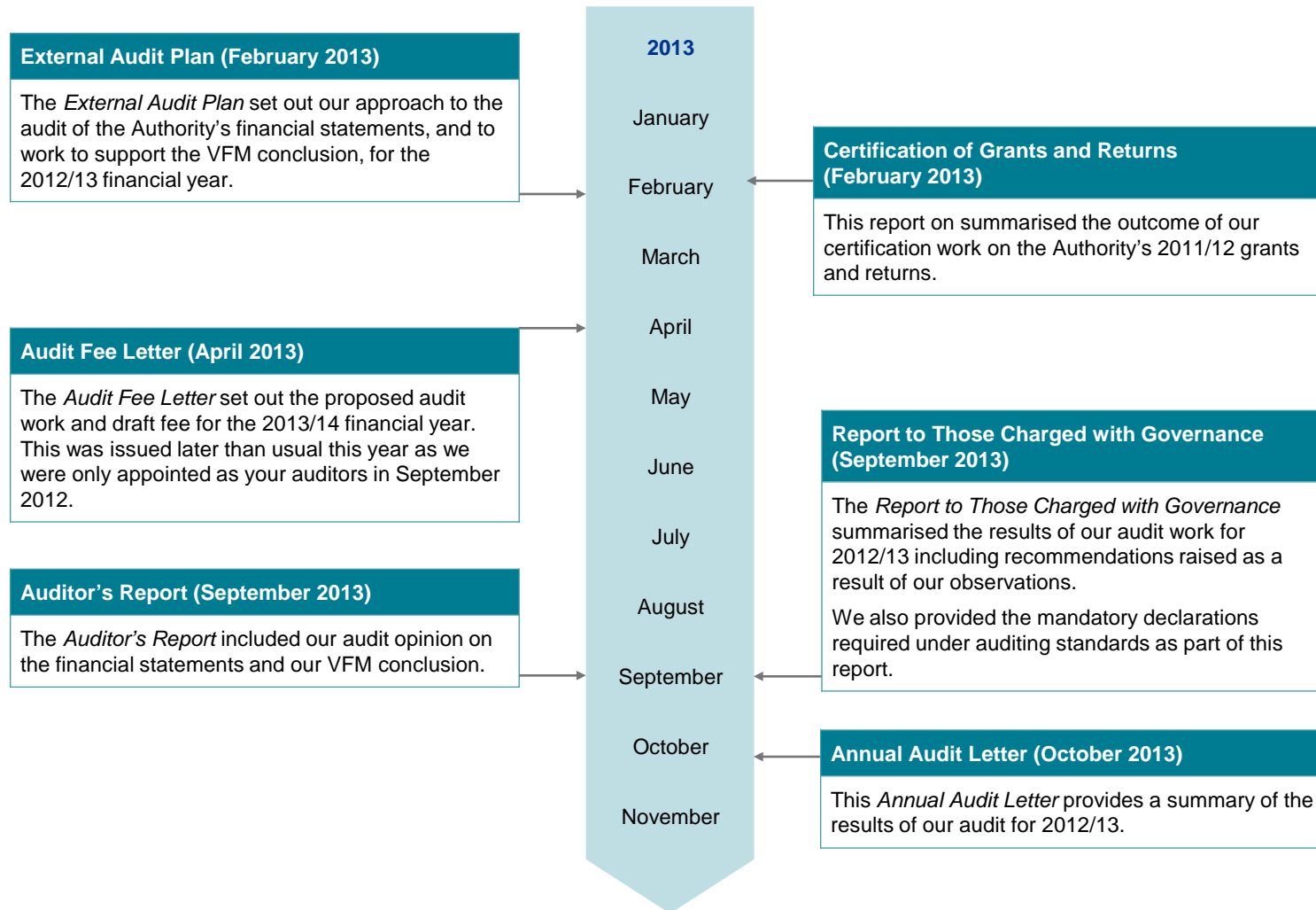
Our audit covers the audit of the Authority's 2012/13 financial statements and the 2012/13 VFM conclusion.

All the issues in this letter have been previously reported. The detailed findings are contained in the reports we have listed in Appendix 1.

Certificate	We cannot issue an audit certificate confirming that we have concluded the audit for 2012/13 in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Audit Commission Act 1998</i> and the Audit Commission's <i>Code of Audit Practice</i> until we have completed our consideration of matters brought to our attention by local authority electors in the form of an objection to the accounts. We are satisfied that these matters do not have a material effect on the financial statements or a significant impact on our value for money conclusion.
Audit fee	Our fee for the 2012/13 core audit was £72,390 excluding VAT. This is the same as the planned fee that we communicated to you in August 2012. Additional fees will be incurred in finalising our work on the objection to the accounts. Further detail is contained in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Summary of reports issued

This appendix summarises the reports we issued since the Audit Commission's 2011/12 *Annual Audit Letter*.



This appendix provides information on our final fees for 2012/13.

To ensure openness between KPMG and your Audit Committee about the extent of our fee relationship with you, we have summarised the outturn against the 2012/13 planned audit fee.

External audit

Our final fee for the 2012/13 core elements of our audit of the Authority was £72,390. This is an overall reduction of 40 percent on the comparative total fee for 2011/12 of £120,650. This reflects the significant reductions made nationally by the Audit Commission to its scale fees.

The final fee is the same as the planned fee that we communicated to you in August 2012.

Additional fees will be incurred in completing work necessary to determine the objection to the Council's accounts.

Certification of grants and returns

Our grants work is still ongoing and the fee will be confirmed through our report on the *Certification of Grants and Returns 2012/13* which we are due to issue in January 2014.

Other services

We also charged £1,600 for certifying the Authority's Decent Homes Backlog Funding return, at the request of the Homes and Communities Agency. This work was not related to our responsibilities under Audit Commission's *Code of Audit Practice*.



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