

Oxford City Council  
Draft audit results  
report

Year ended 31 March 2019

24 July 2019

The EY logo consists of the letters 'EY' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A yellow triangle is positioned above the 'Y', pointing downwards towards the letters.

Building a better  
working world

Agenda Item 13



Private and Confidential

18 July 2019

Dear Audit and Governance Committee Members

We are pleased to attach our audit results report for the forthcoming meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee. This report summarises our preliminary audit conclusion in relation to the audit of Oxford City Council for 2018/19.

We have completed much of our audit of Oxford City Council for the year ended 31 March 2019. At the time of writing, we have yet to carry out our audit procedures on the group accounts, due to delays in receiving information from the subsidiary auditors.

Subject to concluding the outstanding matters listed in our report, we confirm that we expect to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements in the form at section 3. However the delay in receiving information regarding the group accounts may mean that we are unable to report before the publication date of 31 July. We also have no matters to report on your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

This report is intended solely for the use of the Audit and Governance Committee, other members of the Authority, and senior management. It should not be used for any other purpose or given to any other party without obtaining our written consent.

We would like to thank your staff for their help during the engagement.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this report with you at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 24 July 2019.

Yours faithfully

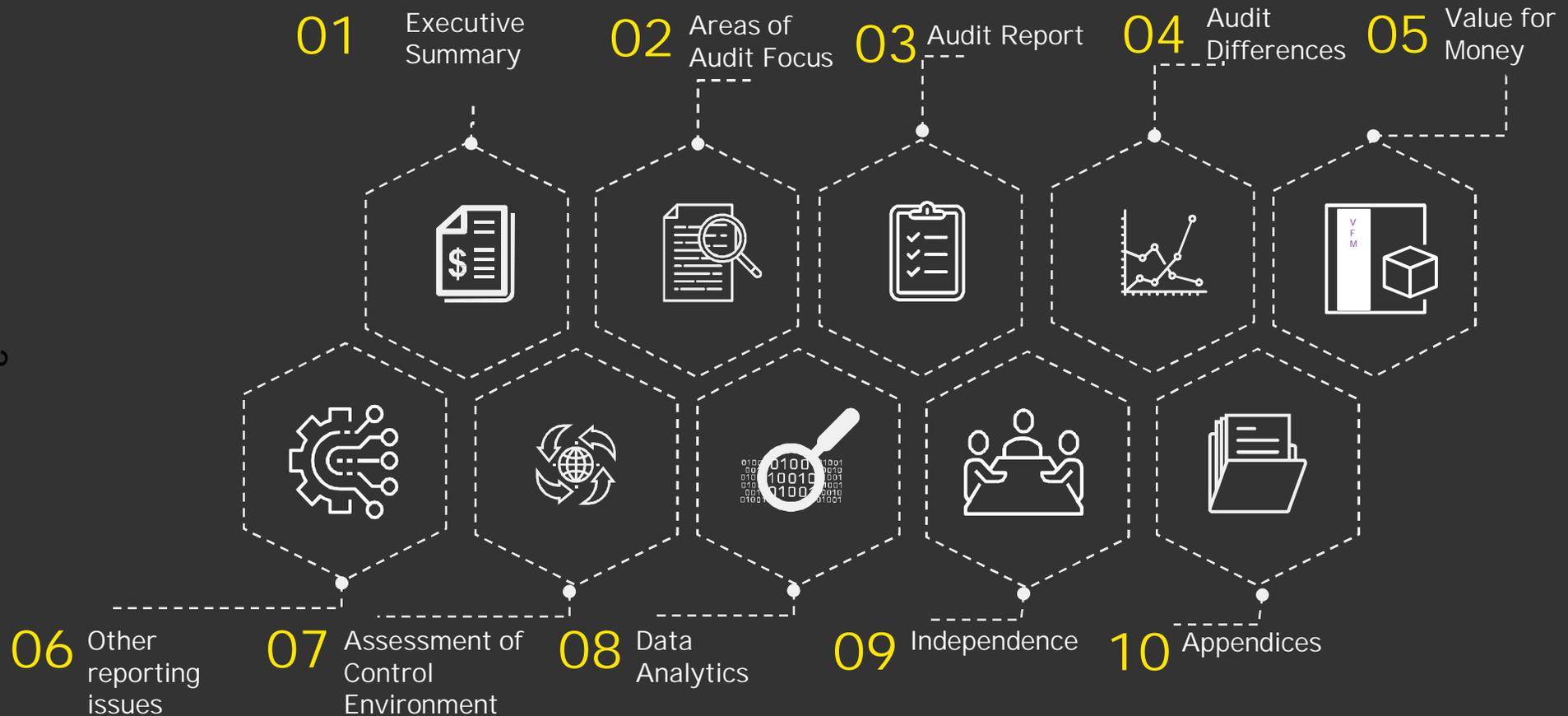
Janet Dawson

Partner

For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP

Encl

# Contents



Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) have issued a 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the PSAA website ([www.psa.co.uk](http://www.psa.co.uk)). This Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas.

The 'Terms of Appointment (updated April 2018)' issued by PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This Annual Audit Letter is prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities. It is addressed to the Members of the audited body, and is prepared for their sole use. We, as appointed auditor, take no responsibility to any third party.

Our Complaints Procedure – If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, you may take the issue up with your usual partner or director contact. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Steve Varley, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute. We can provide further information on how you may contact our professional institute.



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# 01 Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

## Scope update

In our audit planning report tabled at the January 2019 Audit and Governance Committee meeting, we provided you with an overview of our audit scope and approach for the audit of the financial statements. We carried out our audit in accordance with this plan, with the following exception:

- Changes in materiality. We updated our planning materiality assessment using the draft consolidated results and have also reconsidered our risk assessment. Based on our materiality measure of gross expenditure on provision of services, we have updated our overall materiality assessment to £6m (Audit Planning Report – £5m). This results in updated performance materiality, at 75% of overall materiality, of £4.5m, and an updated threshold for reporting misstatements of £0.3m. These are the figures for the group.
- Equivalent figures for the Authority alone are materiality of £4.35m, performance materiality (at 75%) of £3.26m, and misstatement reporting threshold of £0.218m.

The basis of our assessment has remained consistent with prior years at 2% of gross expenditure on provision of services.

During the year Janet Dawson replaced Paul King as the Key Audit Partner, as Paul left EY.

A summary of our approach to the audit of the balance sheet including any changes from the prior year audit is included in Appendix A.

# Executive Summary

## Status of the audit

We have completed much of our audit of Oxford City Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 and have performed the procedures outlined in our audit planning report. At the time of writing, we have yet to carry out our audit procedures on the group accounts, due to delays in receiving information from the subsidiary auditors. We have set out in Appendix C the remaining areas of audit to be completed at the time of writing this report. Subject to satisfactory completion of those matters, we expect to issue an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements in the form which appears at Section 4. However until work is complete, further amendments may arise.

We expect to issue the audit certificate at the same time as the audit opinion.

## Audit differences

At the time of writing, we have not yet identified any unadjusted audit differences in the draft financial statements which management has chosen not to adjust.

If we identify any, we will ask for them to be corrected or a rationale given as to why they are not corrected, which is approved by the Audit and Governance Committee and included in the Letter of Representation. We will set out the aggregated impact of unadjusted audit differences and whether we agree with management's assessment that the impact is not material.

To date there are the following adjusted misstatements in the draft statements.

1. An amendment as a result of judgement being made on the McCloud case, brought to address the impact of historical age discrimination in the treatment of pensioners. This decision came through in late June, after the statements were originally drafted. The effect is to increase expenditure by £3.7m, which officers have described as an exceptional item, as it is a one-off adjustment. This is a national issue affecting many public sector bodies.
2. The IAS19 disclosure in the statements was amended as it differed by £1.2 million from the value in the actuary's report.
3. We found that property, plant and equipment had been overvalued by £646,000 as a result of a transposition error applying a percentage increase to the value (1.98% instead of 1.89%).

There were also some minor disclosures which have been adjusted by management. Details can be found in Section 4 Audit Differences.



# Executive Summary

## Areas of audit focus

Our Audit Planning Report identified key areas of focus for our audit of Oxford City Council's financial statements. This report sets out our observations and conclusions, including our views on areas which might be conservative, and where there is potential risk and exposure. We summarise our consideration of these matters, and any others identified, in the "Key Audit Issues" section of this report.

We ask you to review these and any other matters in this report to ensure:

- There are no other considerations or matters that could have an impact on these issues
- You agree with the resolution of the issue
- There are no other significant issues to be considered.

There are no matters, apart from those reported by management or disclosed in this report, which we believe should be brought to the attention of the Audit and Governance Committee.

## Control observations

We have adopted a fully substantive approach, so have not tested the operation of controls.

## Value for money

We have considered your arrangements to take informed decisions; deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and work with partners and other third parties. In our Audit Planning Report we identified no significant risks.

We have no matters to report about your arrangements to secure economy efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

# Executive Summary

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## Other reporting issues

We have reviewed the information presented in the Annual Governance Statement for consistency with our knowledge of the Authority. We have no matters to report as a result of this work.

We have yet to perform the procedures required by the National Audit Office (NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts submission, which are subject to a later deadline of 13 September 2019.

We have no other matters to report.

## Independence



Please refer to Section 9 for our update on Independence.



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## 02 Areas of Audit Focus



# Areas of Audit Focus

## Significant risk

### Misstatements due to fraud or error

#### What is the risk?

The financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.

We have not identified a heightened risk of management override overall, but we have identified a specific area where management override might occur: capital expenditure and financing. Our specific response to this risk is set out in the next slide.

#### What judgements are we focused on?

We have considered the risk of management override and the areas of the financial statements that may be most susceptible to this risk. We have concluded that the judgements we are focused on are items of non-routine income and expenditure involving management estimation and judgement, rather than transactions created through routine invoicing processes.

Our work on the risk of management override therefore focused on reviewing manual journal entries through using our data analytics tools, as this is how management would most easily be able to manipulate accounting records.

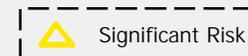
#### What did we do?

- Identified fraud risks during the planning stages.
- Asked management about risks of fraud and the controls put in place to address those risks.
- Understood the oversight given by those charged with governance of management's processes over fraud.
- Considered the effectiveness of management's controls designed to address the risk of fraud.
- Determined an appropriate strategy to address those identified risks of fraud.
- Performed mandatory procedures regardless of specifically identified fraud risks, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments in the preparation of the financial statements.

#### What are our conclusions?

We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override. We have not identified any instances of inappropriate judgements being applied.

We did not identify any other transactions during our audit which appeared unusual or outside the Authority's normal course of business



# Significant risk

## Capital expenditure and financing

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### What is the risk?

Local authorities have a statutory duty to balance their annual budget and are operating in a financially challenged environment with reducing levels of government funding and increasing demand for services.

The Council's Constitution requires the Head of Financial Services to prepare a Capital Strategy which;

- a. Sets out the principles the Council will follow in its capital planning.
- b. Outlines the methodology for inclusion of schemes within the Capital Programme.
- c. Sets out the arrangement for management of capital schemes.
- d. Identifies the capital schemes to be undertaken over the following four financial years and how those schemes will be funded.

Achievement of budget is critical to minimising the impact and usage of the Council's usable reserves and provides a basis for the following year's budget. Any deficit outturn against the budget is therefore not a desirable outcome for the council and management, and therefore this desire to achieve the budget increases the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated.

Whilst there is no more than normal pressure on the Council to meet the outturn position, due to the size of the capital programme (£105m) there is a risk of inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure.

### What judgements are we focused on?

- How management decides on appropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure
- How the capital programme complies with the strategy principles listed above
- Review management arrangements for variances against budget and governance oversight

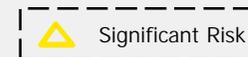
### What did we do?

- Reviewed the capital programme to assess which schemes are included and identify anything unusual or unexpected.
- Reviewed capital expenditure incurred by the Council to ensure that it has been correctly classified as capital rather than revenue.

### What are our conclusions?

We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override.  
We have not identified any instances of inappropriate judgements being applied.

We did not identify any other transactions during our audit which appeared unusual or outside the Council's normal course of business



## Significant risk

### Group structure

#### What is the risk?

The Council has a growing number of companies within the group structure, five of which are wholly owned by the Council and two where the company is jointly owned. With this growth comes additional complexity and risk arising from the need to understand and implement the accounting and reporting requirements for these operations.

One of these components, Oxford Direct Services Ltd, will be a significant component to the group. The risk is considered significant because this is the first year of operation of the significant component. The accounts of the components will need to be consolidated into the Group accounts with appropriate consolidating adjustments. This gives scope for material error.

#### What judgements are we focused on?

- Management judgements of ownership arrangements and how they are disclosed
- Correctness of reporting and disclosure of group elements in the consolidated financial statements
- Correctness of consolidating adjustments
- Completeness of related party disclosures

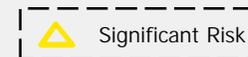
#### What did we do?

- Examined the group structure and determine which elements are in scope
- Monitored the position to identify any components that might move into scope by the year end
- Reviewed the Council's approach to consolidation and production of group accounts to ensure that this meets the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice

#### What are our conclusions?

This work is currently under way. However to complete it we need to obtain information from Mazars, who are the auditors for Oxford Direct Services.

There have been delays in obtaining this information, which we have just received and are now reviewing.



## 02 - Audit risks

### Other areas of audit focus

In our audit planning report we identified other areas of the audit, not classified as significant risks, but still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

#### What is the risk/area of focus?

##### Valuation of Land and Buildings

The fair value of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) and Investment Properties (IP) represent significant balances in the Council's accounts and are subject to valuation changes, impairment reviews and depreciation charges. Management is required to make material judgemental inputs and apply estimation techniques to calculate the year-end balances recorded in the balance sheet.

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##### Pension Liability Valuation

The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the Council to make extensive disclosures within its financial statements regarding its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Oxford City Council.

The Council's pension fund deficit is a material estimated balance and the Code requires that this liability be disclosed on the Council's balance sheet. At 31 March 2019 this came to £211.3 million.

The information disclosed is based on the IAS19 report issued to the Council by the actuary to the County Council.

Accounting for this scheme involves significant estimation and judgement and therefore management engages an actuary to undertake the calculations on their behalf. ISAs (UK) 500 and 540 require us to undertake procedures on the use of management experts and the assumptions underlying fair value estimates.

The Council is re-running the actuary's report to take account of the McCloud case.

#### What did we do?

We:

- considered the work performed by the Council's valuers, including the adequacy of the scope of the work performed, their professional capabilities and the results of their work;
- sample tested key asset information used by the valuers in performing their valuation (e.g. floor plans to support valuations based on price per square metre);
- considered the annual cycle of valuations to ensure that assets have been valued within a 5 year rolling programme as required by the Code for PPE and annually for IP. We also considered if there are any specific changes to assets that have occurred and that these have been communicated to the valuer;
- reviewed assets not subject to valuation in 2018/19 to confirm that the remaining asset base is not materially misstated;
- considered changes to useful economic lives as a result of the most recent valuation; and
- tested that accounting entries have been correctly processed in the financial statements,

We:

- liaised with the auditors of Oxfordshire Pension Fund to obtain assurances over the information supplied to the actuary in relation to Oxfordshire County Council;
- assessed the work of the Pension Fund actuary (Hyman Robertson) including the assumptions they have used by relying on the work of PWC - Consulting Actuaries commissioned by the National Audit Office for all Local Government sector auditors, and considering any relevant reviews by the EY actuarial team; and
- reviewed and tested the accounting entries and disclosures made within the Council's financial statements in relation to IAS19.
- The Council has amended its financial statements to take account of the implications of the McCloud case, brought to address the impact of historical age discrimination in the treatment of pensioners. This decision came through in late June, after the statements were originally drafted. The effect is to increase expenditure by £3.7m, which officers have described as an exceptional item, as it is a one-off adjustment. This is a national issue affecting many public sector bodies.

## 02 - Audit risks

### Other areas of audit focus

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risks, but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures.

#### What is the risk/area of focus?

#### What did we do?

##### IFRS 9 financial instruments

This new accounting standard is applicable for local authority accounts from the 2018/19 financial year and will change:

- How financial assets are classified and measured;
- How the impairment of financial assets are calculated; and
- The disclosure requirements for financial assets.

There are transitional arrangements within the standard; and the 2018/19 Cipfa Code of practice on local authority accounting provides guidance on the application of IFRS 9. We are currently in discussion with officers on the appropriate accounting treatment for some equities.

We:

- assessed the Council's implementation arrangements that should include an impact assessment paper setting out the application of the new standard, transitional adjustments and planned accounting for 2018/19;
- considered the classification and valuation of financial instrument assets;
- reviewed new expected credit loss model impairment calculations for assets; and
- checked additional disclosure requirements.

##### IFRS 15 Revenue from contracts with customers

This new accounting standard is applicable for local authority accounts from the 2018/19 financial year.

The key requirements of the standard cover the identification of performance obligations under customer contracts and the linking of income to the meeting of those performance obligations.

The 2018/19 Cipfa Code of practice on local authority accounting provides guidance on the application of IFRS 15 and includes a useful flow diagram and commentary on the main sources of LG revenue and how they should be recognised.

The impact on local authority accounting is likely to be limited as large revenue streams like council tax, non domestic rates and government grants will be outside the scope of IFRS 15. However where that standard is relevant, the recognition of revenue will change and new disclosure requirements introduced.

We:

- assessed the authority's implementation arrangements that should include an impact assessment paper setting out the application of the new standard, transitional adjustments and planned accounting for 2018/19. This includes Local Authority Trading Companies consolidated into the Authority's Group Accounts;
- considered application to the authority's revenue streams, and where the standard is relevant test to ensure revenue is recognised when (or as) it satisfies a performance obligation; and
- checked additional disclosure requirements.

## Other areas of audit focus

We have identified other areas of the audit, that have not been classified as significant risks, but are still important when considering the risks of material misstatement to the financial statements and disclosures and therefore may be key audit matters we will include in our audit report.

### What did we do?

#### Brexit

There is continuing uncertainty arising from the potential impact of Brexit. Councils and other bodies should be in a position where they have assessed the possible impact and identified any areas of risk, for example, recruitment and retention, uncertainty over asset values.

We reviewed the Council's impact assessment and scenario planning. We considered them to be reasonable in the light of continued and prolonged uncertainty as to both the date and terms of the UK leaving the European Union.



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## 03 Audit Report



# Audit Report

## Draft audit report

### Our opinion on the financial statements

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oxford City Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- 17 Council and Group Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Council and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Council and Group Balance Sheet,
- Council and Group Cash Flow Statement,
- Related notes to support the financial statements 1 to 44 and G1 to G5, and the Council and Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis,
- Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and the related notes H1 to H9
- Collection Fund and the related notes CF1 and CF2

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

In our opinion the financial statements:  
give a true and fair view of the financial position of Oxford City Council and Group as at 31 March 2019 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and  
have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

##### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of Oxford City Council and Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:  
the Head of Financial Services' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or  
the Head of Financial Services has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

##### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the statement of accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Head of Financial Services is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



# Audit Report

## Our opinion on the financial statements

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

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Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Oxford City Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Council;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;

we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;

we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or

we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the Head of Financial Services

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page x, the Head of Financial Services is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

In preparing the financial statements, the Head of Financial Services is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authority either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.



# Audit Report

## Our opinion on the financial statements

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, as to whether Oxford City Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Oxford City Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, Oxford City Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

## Certificate

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

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Oxford City Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Oxford City Council and Oxford City Council's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Janet Dawson (Key Audit Partner)  
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)  
London  
Xx July 2019

The maintenance and integrity of the Oxford City Council web site is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



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# 04 Audit Differences





## Audit Differences

In the normal course of any audit, we identify misstatements between amounts we believe should be recorded in the financial statements and the disclosures and amounts actually recorded. These differences are classified as “known” or “judgemental”. Known differences represent items that can be accurately quantified and relate to a definite set of facts or circumstances. Judgemental differences generally involve estimation and relate to facts or circumstances that are uncertain or open to interpretation.

### Summary of adjusted differences

To date there are the following adjusted misstatements in the draft statements.

1. An amendment as a result of judgement being made on the McCloud case, brought to address the impact of historical age discrimination in the treatment of pensioners. This decision came through in late June, after the statements were originally drafted. The effect is to increase expenditure by £3.7m, which officers have described as an exceptional item, as it is a one-off adjustment. This is a national issue affecting many public sector bodies.
2. The IAS19 disclosure in the statements was amended as it differed by £1.2 million from the value in the actuary's report.
3. We found that property, plant and equipment had been overvalued by £646,000 as a result of a transposition error applying a percentage increase to the value (1.98% instead of 1.89%).

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Some minor disclosures have also been amended.

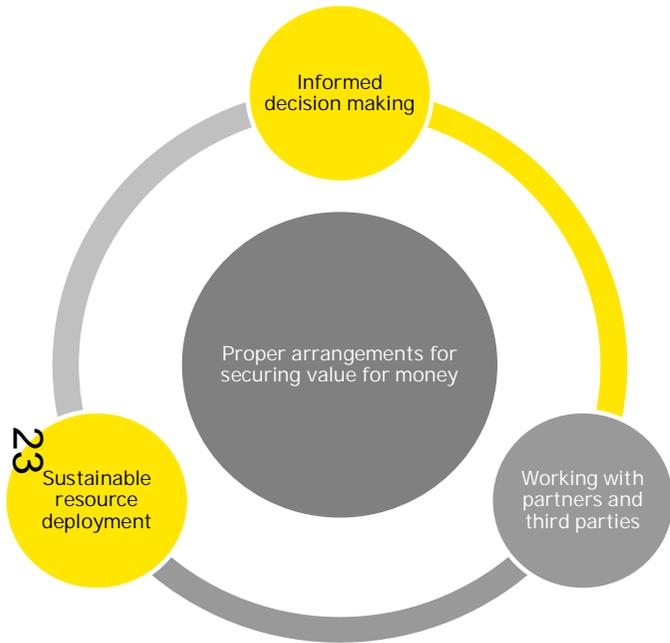
There are to date no uncorrected misstatements.



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## Value for Money Risks



## Background

We are required to consider whether the Council has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources. This is known as our value for money conclusion.

For 2018/19 this is based on the overall evaluation criterion:

"In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people"

Proper arrangements are defined by statutory guidance issued by the National Audit Office. They comprise your arrangements to:

- Take informed decisions;
- Deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and
- Work with partners and other third parties.

In considering your proper arrangements, we will draw on the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework for local government to ensure that our assessment is made against a framework that you are already required to have in place and to report on through documents such as your annual governance statement.

## Overall conclusion

We did not identify any significant risks around these criteria.

We therefore expect having no matters to report about your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.



## 06 Other reporting issues

## Other reporting issues

### Consistency of other information published with the financial statements, including the Annual Governance Statement

We must give an opinion on the consistency of the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 with the audited financial statements

We must also review the Annual Governance Statement for completeness of disclosures, consistency with other information from our work, and whether it complies with relevant guidance.

Financial information in the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 and published with the financial statements was consistent with the audited financial statements.

We have reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and can confirm it is consistent with other information from our audit of the financial statements and we have no other matters to report.

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### Whole of Government Accounts

In addition to our work on the financial statements, we also review and report to the National Audit Office on your Whole of Government Accounts return. The extent of our review, and the nature of our report, is specified by the National Audit Office.

We will complete this work after the audit, in time with the reporting deadline of 13 September 2019.

## Other reporting issues

# Other reporting issues

### Other powers and duties

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to consider whether to report on any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit, either for the Authority to consider it or to bring it to the attention of the public (i.e. “a report in the public interest”). We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a report in the public interest.

We also have a duty to make written recommendations to the Authority, copied to the Secretary of State, and take action in accordance with our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. We did not identify any issues.

### Other matters

As required by ISA (UK&I) 260 and other ISAs specifying communication requirements, we must tell you significant findings from the audit and other matters if they are significant to your oversight of the Authority’s financial reporting process. They include the following:

- Significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures;
- Any significant difficulties encountered during the audit;
- Any significant matters arising from the audit that were discussed with management;
- Written representations we have requested;
- Expected modifications to the audit report;
- Any other matters significant to overseeing the financial reporting process;
- Findings and issues around the opening balance on initial audits (if applicable);
- Related parties;
- External confirmations;
- Going concern;
- Consideration of laws and regulations; and
- Group audits

We have nothing to report in these matters.



07

# Assessment of Control Environment



# Assessment of Control Environment

## Reliance on internal audit

It is the responsibility of the Authority to develop and implement systems of internal financial control and to put in place proper arrangements to monitor their adequacy and effectiveness in practice. Our responsibility as your auditor is to consider whether the Authority has put adequate arrangements in place to satisfy itself that the systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective in practice.

As part of our audit of the financial statements, we obtained an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed.

Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control we are required to communicate to you significant deficiencies in internal control.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of an internal control that might result in a material misstatement in your financial statements of which you are not aware.



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# 08 Data Analytics



# Use of Data Analytics in the Audit

## ► Data analytics

### Analytics Driven Audit

#### Data analytics

We used our data analysers to enable us to capture entire populations of your financial data. These analysers:

- Help identify specific exceptions and anomalies which can then be the focus of our substantive audit tests; and
- Give greater likelihood of identifying errors than traditional, random sampling techniques.

In 2018/19, our use of these analysers in the authority's audit included testing journal entries, to identify and focus our testing on those entries we deem to have the highest inherent risk to the audit.

We capture the data through our formal data requests and the data transfer takes place on a secured EY website. These are in line with our EY data protection policies which are designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of business and personal information.

#### Journal Entry Analysis

We obtain downloads of all financial ledger transactions posted in the year. We perform completeness analysis over the data, reconciling the sum of transactions to the movement in the trial balances and financial statements to ensure we have captured all data. Our analysers then review and sort transactions, allowing us to more effectively identify and test journals that we consider to be higher risk, as identified in our audit planning report.

#### Payroll Analysis

We also use our analysers in our payroll testing. We obtain all payroll transactions posted in the year from the payroll system and perform completeness analysis over the data, including reconciling the total amount to the General Ledger trial balance. We then analyse the data against a number of specifically designed procedures. These include analysis of payroll costs by month to identify any variances from established expectations, as well as more detailed transactional interrogation.



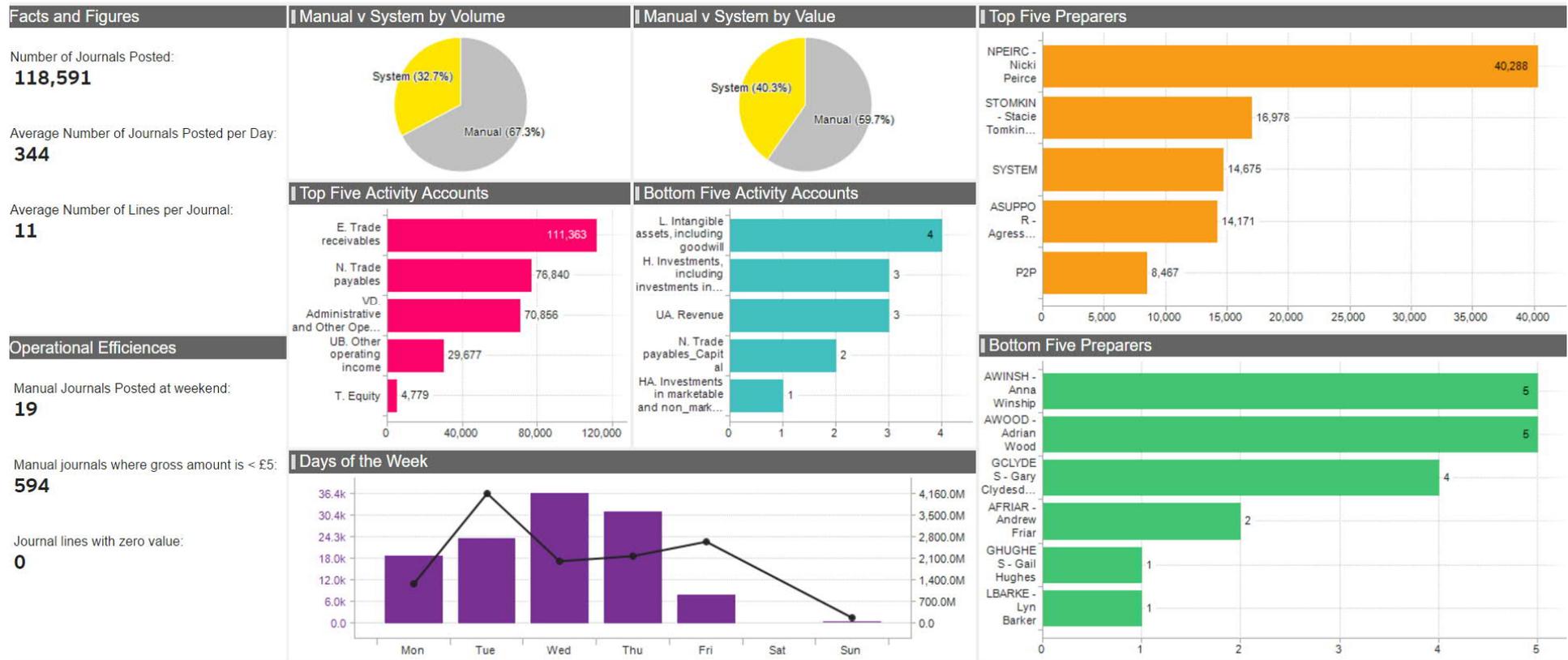
# Data Analytics

## Journal Entry Data Insights

The graphic outlined below summarises the journal population for 2018/19. We review journals by certain risk based criteria to focus on higher risk transactions, such as journals posted manually by management, those posted around the year-end, those with unusual debit and credit relationships, and those posted by individuals we would not expect to be entering transactions.

The purpose of this approach is to provide a more effective, risk focused approach to auditing journal entries, minimising the burden of compliance on management by minimising randomly selected samples.

### EY Helix - GLASS: Journal Entry Data Insights - 19 Oxford City Council - P1 to P12 - 31/03/2019



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## Journal Entry Testing

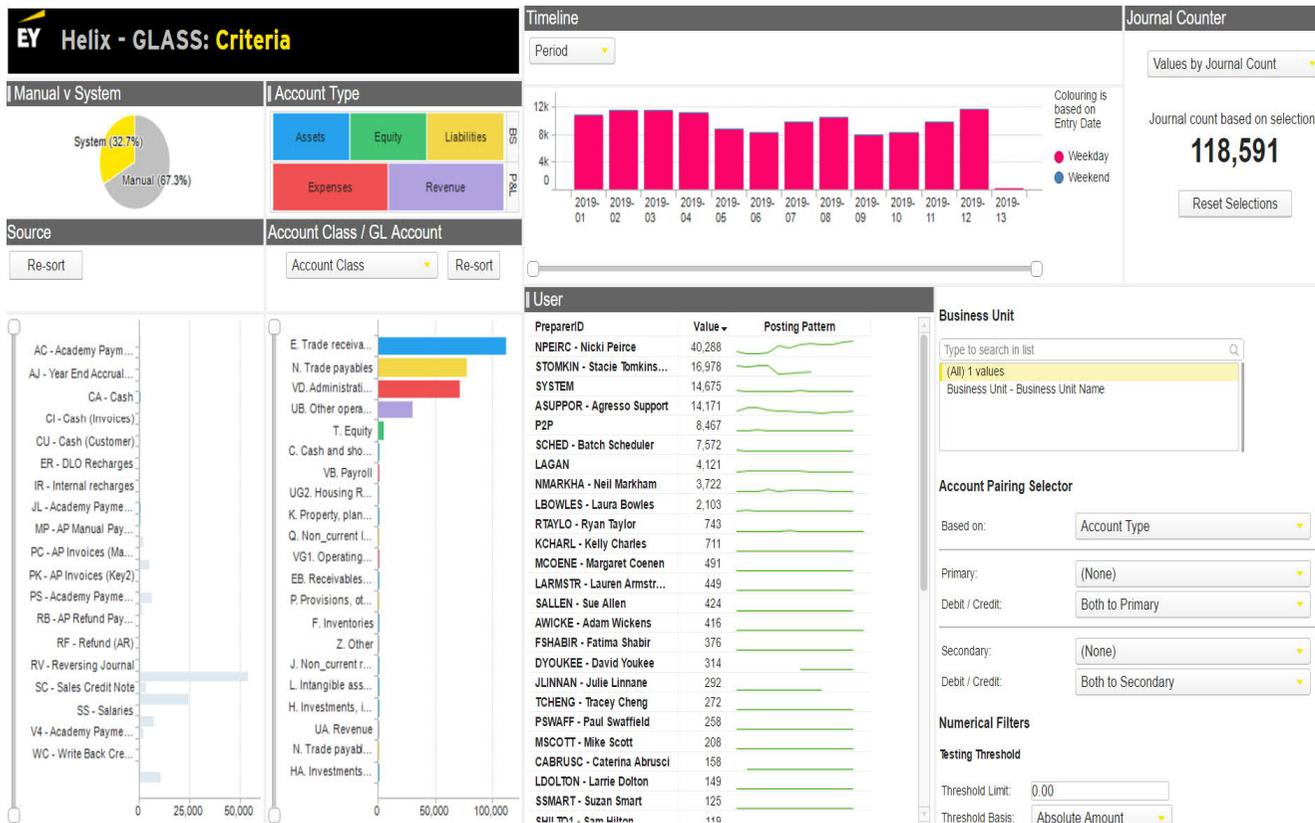
### What is the risk?

In line with ISA 240 we are required to test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Journal entry data criteria – 31 March 20XX

### What judgements are we focused on?

Using our analysers we are able to take a risk based approach to identify journals with a higher risk of management override, as outlined in our audit planning report.



### What did we do?

We obtained general ledger journal data for the period and have used our analysers to identify characteristics typically associated with inappropriate journal entries or adjustments, and journals entries that are subject to a higher risk of management override.

We then performed tests on the journals identified to determine if they were appropriate and reasonable.

### What are our conclusions?

We isolated a sub-set of journals for further investigation and obtained supporting evidence to verify the posting of these transactions and concluded that they were appropriately stated.



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Independence

## Confirmation



We confirm that there are no changes in our assessment of independence since our confirmation in our audit planning report dated January 2019.

We complied with the FRC Ethical Standards and the requirements of the PSAA's Terms of Appointment. In our professional judgement the firm is independent and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff has not been compromised within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements.

We consider that our independence in this context is a matter which you should review, as well as us. It is important that you and your Audit and Governance Committee consider the facts known to you and come to a view. If you would like to discuss any matters concerning our independence, we will be pleased to do this at the meeting of the Committee on 24 July 2019.

# Independence

## Fee analysis

As part of our reporting on our independence, we set out below a summary of the fees paid for the year ended 31 March 2019.

We confirm that we have not undertaken non-audit work outside the NAO Code requirements.

	Final Fee 2018/19	Planned Fee 2018/19	Scale Fee 2018/19	Final Fee 2017/18
	£	£	£	£
Total Audit Fee – Code work	TBC	*66,355	66,355	86,775
 Grant claims – Housing benefit Subsidy Claim Certification	TBC	**19,500	N/A	25,575
Total non-audit services	TBC	85,855	66,355	112,350

\*There may be additional fees because of the increased complexity of the Council's group structure, as reported in the audit planning report.

\*\* The fee for housing benefit work is based on the amount of work required in previous years and may increase if more extended testing is required in order to comply with DWP expectations



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## Appendices

## Audit approach update

We summarise below our approach to the audit of the balance sheet and any changes to this approach from the prior year audit.

Our audit procedures are designed to be responsive to our assessed risk of material misstatement at the relevant assertion level. Assertions relevant to the balance sheet include:

- Existence: An asset, liability and equity interest exists at a given date
- Rights and Obligations: An asset, liability and equity interest pertains to the entity at a given date
- Completeness: There are no unrecorded assets, liabilities, and equity interests, transactions or events, or undisclosed items
- Valuation: An asset, liability and equity interest is recorded at an appropriate amount and any resulting valuation or allocation adjustments are appropriately recorded
- Presentation and Disclosure: Assets, liabilities and equity interests are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated, and classified, described and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework

Balance sheet category	Audit Approach in current year	Audit Approach in prior year	Explanation for change
Trade receivables	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Trade payables	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Investments	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Tangible fixed assets	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Cash	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Borrowing	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Capital grants receipts in advance	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change
Pensions liability	Substantively tested all assertions	Substantively tested all assertions	No change

## Appendix B

# Required communications with the Audit and Governance Committee

There are certain communications that we must provide to the Audit Committees of UK clients. We have detailed these here together with a reference of when and where they were covered:

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Terms of engagement	Confirmation by the Audit and Governance Committee of acceptance of terms of engagement as written in the engagement letter signed by both parties.	The statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the PSAA's appointed auditors and audited bodies
 Our responsibilities	Reminder of our responsibilities as set out in the engagement letter.	Audit planning report
Planning and audit approach	Communication of the planned scope and timing of the audit, any limitations and the significant risks identified.	Audit planning report
Significant findings from the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our view about the significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures</li> <li>• Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit</li> <li>• Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed with management</li> <li>• Written representations that we are seeking</li> <li>• Expected modifications to the audit report</li> <li>• Other matters if any, significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process</li> </ul>	Audit results report

# Appendix B

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	What is reported?	When and where
Going concern	<p>Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty</li> <li>• Whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements</li> <li>• The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements</li> </ul>	No conditions or events were identified, either individually or together to raise any doubt about Oxford City Council's ability to continue for the 12 months from the date of our report
Misstatements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncorrected misstatements and their effect on our audit opinion</li> <li>• The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods</li> <li>• A request that any uncorrected misstatement be corrected</li> <li>• Material misstatements corrected by management</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Subsequent events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking the Audit and Governance Committee where appropriate about whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the financial statements.</li> </ul>	
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking the Audit and Governance Committee to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the Authority</li> <li>• Any fraud that we have identified or information we have obtained that indicates that a fraud may exist</li> <li>• Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the Authority, any identified or suspected fraud involving:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Management;</li> <li>b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or</li> <li>c. Others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit when fraud involving management is suspected</li> <li>• Any other matters related to fraud, relevant to Audit and Governance Committee responsibility.</li> </ul>	Audit results report

# Appendix B

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Related parties	Significant matters arising during the audit in connection with the Authority's related parties including, when applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-disclosure by management</li> <li>• Inappropriate authorisation and approval of transactions</li> <li>• Disagreement over disclosures</li> <li>• Non-compliance with laws and regulations</li> <li>• Difficulty in identifying the party that ultimately controls the Authority</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Independence  <div style="position: absolute; left: -40px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%); font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">40</div>	Communication of all significant facts and matters that bear on EY's, and all individuals involved in the audit, objectivity and independence. Communication of key elements of the audit engagement partner's consideration of independence and objectivity such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal threats</li> <li>• Safeguards adopted and their effectiveness</li> <li>• An overall assessment of threats and safeguards</li> <li>• Information about the general policies and process within the firm to maintain objectivity and independence</li> </ul> Communications whenever significant judgments are made about threats to objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of safeguards put in place.	Audit planning report  Audit results report

# Appendix B

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	What is reported?	When and where
External confirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management's refusal for us to request confirmations</li> <li>Inability to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from other procedures.</li> </ul>	All confirmations requested have been received
Consideration of laws and regulations  41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to compliance with applicable regulations, matters involving identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, other than those which are clearly inconsequential and the implications thereof. Instances of suspected non-compliance may also include those that are brought to our attention that are expected to occur imminently or for which there is reason to believe that they may occur</li> <li>Enquiry of the Audit and Governance Committee into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements and that the Audit and Governance Committee may be aware of</li> </ul>	We have asked management and those charged with governance. We have not identified any material instances or non-compliance with laws and regulations
Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit.</li> </ul>	Audit results report

## Appendix B

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	 When and where
Group Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the components</li> <li>• An overview of the nature of the group audit team's planned involvement in the work to be performed by the component auditors on the financial information of significant components</li> <li>• Instances where the group audit team's evaluation of the work of a component auditor gave rise to a concern about the quality of that auditor's work</li> <li>• Any limitations on the group audit, for example, where the group engagement team's access to information may have been restricted</li> <li>• Fraud or suspected fraud involving group management, component management, employees who have significant roles in group-wide controls or others where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement of the group financial statements.</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Written representations we request from management and/or those charged with governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written representations we request from management and/or those charged with governance</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Auditors report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any circumstances identified that affect the form and content of our auditor's report</li> </ul>	Audit results report
Fee Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown of fee information when the audit planning report is agreed</li> <li>• Breakdown of fee information at the completion of the audit</li> <li>• Any non-audit work</li> </ul>	Audit Planning Report Audit Results Report
Certification work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of certification work</li> </ul>	Certification Report

## Appendix C

# Outstanding matters

The following items relating to the completion of our audit procedures are outstanding at the date of the release of this report:

Item	Actions to resolve	Responsibility
Statement of accounts	Receipt and review of the final version of the accounts	EY and management
Management representation letter	Receipt of signed management representation letter	Management and Audit and Governance Committee
Response from those charged with governance	Send letter to EY audit team	Management
Subsequent events review	Completion of subsequent events procedures to the date of signing the audit report	EY and management
Journals testing	Sample received back from officers for review	EY and management
 Income & expenditure/ debtors & creditors	Work completed and in review	EY
Group accounts (delayed due to late reporting by subsidiary auditors)	Review of subsidiary audit approach and findings; consideration of reliance and subsequent testing required; disclosures in group accounts	EY
Property, plant & equipment and investment property	Currently ongoing	EY
Cash & bank and investments	Currently ongoing	EY
Provisions and reserves	Currently ongoing	EY
Grant income	Currently ongoing	EY and management
All other disclosures	Currently ongoing	EY

# Management representation letter

## Management Rep Letter

Ernst & Young  
1 More London Place  
London  
SE1 2AF

Dear Janet,

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Oxford City Council ("the Council") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council financial position of Oxford City Council as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose - all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

### A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with [the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19

We acknowledge, as members of management of the Council, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. We believe the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance (or results of operations) and cash flows of the Council in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.

As members of management of the Council, we believe that the Council has a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the effects of any unadjusted audit differences, summarised in the accompanying schedule, accumulated by you during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

### B. Non-compliance with law and regulations, including fraud

We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Council's activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible to identify and address any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.

We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

# Management representation letter

## Management Rep Letter

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We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud that may have affected the Council (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by “whistleblowers”), including non-compliance matters:

- involving financial statements;
- related to laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Council's financial statements;
- related to laws and regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Council's activities, its ability to continue to operate, or to avoid material penalties;
- involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal controls, or others; or

in relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

### C. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

We have provided you with:

Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Council and its relevant committees (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the year to the most recent meeting on the following date: 17 July 2019.

We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the period ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the [period] end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

We believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

We have disclosed to you, and the Council has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

### D. Liabilities and Contingencies

All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the financial statements.

We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.

ISA (UK) 501.12

We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

# Management representation letter

## Management Rep Letter

### E. Subsequent Events

Other than described in the financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

### F. Other information

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the statement of accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

### G. Reserves

We have properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements the useable and unusable reserves.

### H. Contingent Liabilities

We are unaware of any violations or possible violations of laws or regulations the effects of which should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as the basis of recording a contingent loss (other than those disclosed or accrued in the financial statements).

We are unaware of any known or probable instances of non-compliance with the requirements of regulatory or governmental authorities, including their financial reporting requirements, and there have been no communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives concerning investigations or allegations of non-compliance.

### I. Use of the Work of a Specialist

We agree with the findings of the specialists that we engaged to evaluate the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment, the IAS19 actuarial valuations of pension fund liabilities and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

#### Estimates

When we have identified a significant or higher risk estimate, we may include the following representation(s) (refer to ESTIMATES 12):

#### PPE Valuations and Pensions Liability Estimates

We believe that the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used to determine the accounting estimate(s) have been consistently applied and are appropriate in the context of the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

We confirm that the significant assumptions used in making the estimates for PPE and Pensions Liability appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity.

We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimate(s) are complete and made in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

# Management representation letter

## Management Rep Letter

We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimate(s) and disclosures in the financial statements due to subsequent events. [When estimates have been identified which do not meet the recognition or disclosure criteria of the applicable financial reporting framework] We confirm that the recognition and/or disclosure criteria within [applicable financial reporting framework] have not been met with respect to the accounting estimate for [describe accounting estimate] and accordingly we have [not recognised the estimate in the financial statements / disclosed the existence in the notes to the financial statements but not recorded the estimate in the accounting records].

### 47 K. Retirement benefits

On the basis of the process established by us and having made appropriate enquiries, we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities are consistent with our knowledge of the business. All significant retirement benefits and all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

Yours faithfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nigel Kennedy – Head of Financial Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Fry - Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

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ED None

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