KPMG

Annual Audit Letter 2017/18

Fylde Borough Council

—

16 August 2018

Section one

Summary for Audit and Standards Committee

Section one:

Summary for Audit and Standards Committee

This Annual Audit Letter summarises the outcome from our audit work at Fylde Borough Council ("the Authority") in relation to the 2017-18 audit year.

Although it is addressed to Members of the Authority, it is also intended to communicate these key messages to key external stakeholders, including members of the public, and will be placed on the Authority's website.

Audit opinion

We issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements on 31 July 2018. 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.

Financial statements audit

Our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our opinion on the financial statements as a whole . Materiality for the Authority's accounts was set at £750,000 which equates to around 1.9 percent of gross expenditure. We design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision.

We report to the Audit and Standards Committee any misstatements of lesser amounts, other than those that are "clearly trivial", to the extent that these are identified by our audit work. In the context of the Authority, an individual difference is considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £37,000 for the Authority.

We have identified no audit adjustments.

Our audit work was designed to specifically address the following significant risks:

- **Management Override of Controls** – Professional standards require us to communicate the fraud risk from management override of controls as significant because management is typically in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.
- **Valuation of PPE** – The Code requires that where assets are subject to revaluation, their year end carrying value should reflect the appropriate fair value at that date. The Authority has adopted a rolling revaluation model which sees all land and buildings revalued at least every five years. As a result of this, however, individual assets may not be revalued for four years. This creates a risk that the carrying value of those assets not revalued in year differs materially from the year end fair value. The Authority is the administrating body for a significant £19.825m local Coastal Protection Scheme. The scheme therefore involves significant transactions for the Authority, and such schemes are often complex, time consuming and at risk of significant year on year slippage.
- **Pensions Liabilities** – The net pension liability represents a material element of the Authority's balance sheet. It represents the net balance of the Pension Liability and the Pension Asset. The Authority is an admitted body of Lancashire County Council Pension Fund which had its last triennial valuation completed as at 31 March 2016. This forms an integral basis of the valuation as at 31 March 2018. The valuation of the gross pension liability then relies on the application of a number of assumptions, most notably around the actuarial assumptions, and actuarial methodology which results in the Authority's overall valuation. There is a risk that the assumptions and methodology used in the valuation of the Authority's gross pension liability are not reasonable. This could have a material impact to net pension liability accounted for in the financial statements.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Document Classification: KPMG Confidential

Summary for Audit and Standards Committee (cont.)

Other information accompanying the financial statements

Whilst not explicitly covered by our audit opinion, we review other information that accompanies the financial statements to consider its material consistency with the audited accounts. This year we reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report. We concluded that they were consistent with our understanding and did not identify any issues.

Whole of Government Accounts

The Authority prepares a consolidation pack to support the production of Whole of Government Accounts by HM Treasury. We are not required to review your pack in detail as the Authority falls below the threshold where an audit is required. As required by the guidance we have confirmed this with the National Audit Office.

Value for Money conclusion

We issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money (VFM conclusion) for 2017-18 on 31 July 2018. This means we are satisfied that during the year the Authority had appropriate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

To arrive at our conclusion we looked at the Authority's arrangements to make informed decision making, sustainable resource deployment and working with partners and third parties.

Value for Money risk areas

We undertook a risk assessment as part of our VFM audit work to identify the key areas impacting on our VFM conclusion and considered the arrangements you have put in place to mitigate these risks. We did not identify any significant value for money risks.

High priority recommendations

We raised no high priority recommendations as a result of our 2017-18 work.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Document Classification: KPMG Confidential

Summary for Audit and Standards Committee (cont.)

Certificate

We issued our certificate on 15 August 2018. The certificate confirms that we have concluded the audit for 2017-18 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Audit fee

Our fee for 2017-18 was £47,700, excluding VAT (2016-17: £47,700). Further detail is contained in Appendix 2.

Exercising of audit powers

We have a duty to consider whether to issue a report in the public interest about something we believe the Authority should consider, or if the public should know about.

We have not identified any matters that would require us to issue a public interest report.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Document Classification: KPMG Confidential

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Summary of reports issued

This appendix summarises the reports we issued since our last Annual Audit Letter. These reports can be accessed via the Audit Committee pages on the Authority's website at www.fylde.gov.uk.

2018

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

Certification of Grants and Returns

This letter summarised the outcome of our certification work on the Authority's 2016-17 grants and returns.

External Audit Plan

The External Audit Plan set out our approach to the audit of the Authority's financial statements and to support the VFM conclusion.

Report to Those Charged with Governance

The Report to Those Charged with Governance summarised the results of our audit work for 2017-18 including key issues and recommendations raised as a result of our observations.

We also provided the mandatory declarations required under auditing standards as part of this report.

Auditor's Report

The Auditor's Report included our audit opinion on the financial statements along with our VFM conclusion and our certificate.

Annual Audit Letter

This Annual Audit Letter provides a summary of the results of our audit for 2017-18.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Document Classification: KPMG Confidential

Appendix 2:

Audit fees

This appendix provides information on our final fees for the 2017-18 audit.

External audit

Our final fee for the 2017-18 audit of the Authority was £47,700, which is in line with the planned fee.

Certification of grants and returns

Under our terms of engagement with Public Sector Audit Appointments we undertake prescribed work in order to certify the Authority's housing benefit grant claim. This certification work is still ongoing. The planned fee for this work is £8,034 and the final fee will be confirmed through our reporting on the outcome of that work in January 2019.

Other services

We did not charge any additional fees for other services.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Document Classification: KPMG Confidential

The key contacts in relation to our audit are:

Amanda Latham
Partner/Director

T: +44 (0) 7768 416801
E: amanda.latham@kpmg.co.uk

Harriet Fisher
Manager

T: +44 (0) 7827 305274
E: harriet.fisher@kpmg.co.uk

kpmg.com/uk

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. We draw your attention to the Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies, which is available on Public Sector Audit Appointment's website (www.psaa.co.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.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Amanda Latham, the engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers, by email to Andrew.Sayers@kpmg.co.uk. After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

CREATE: CRT086281A