



Corporate Committee Update for London Borough of Haringey

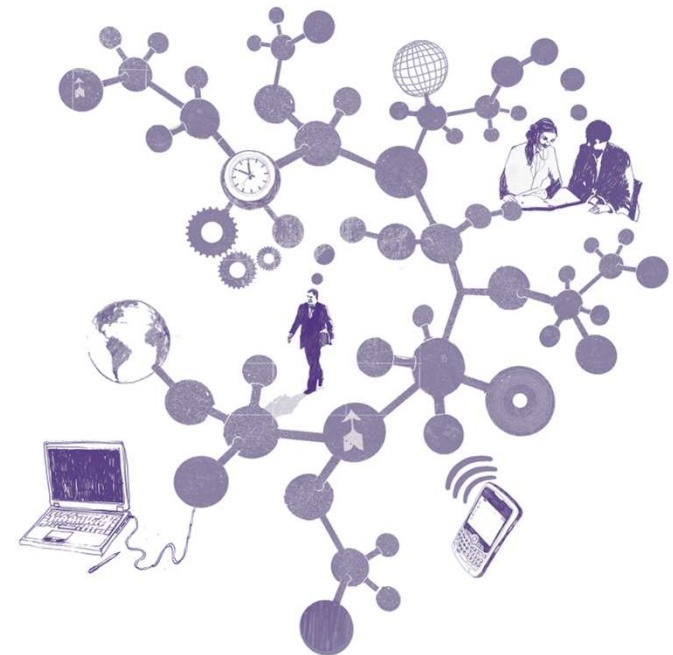
Year ended 31 March 2014

November 2013

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The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify.

We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

Introduction

This paper provides the Corporate Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors. There are no changes to the reporting framework or accounting standards that needs to be reported to the Corporate Committee at this time. Where these are identified, we will continue to update and inform the Committee of these changes and their possible impact.

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

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Progress at November 2013

Work	Comments
2012/13 Audit Certificate	<p>We gave an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial Statements on 19 September 2013 in advance of the 30 September deadline.. We were not able to certify the 2012/13 audit as complete due to a potential objection raised on the accounts by a local authority elector . The Council continues to liaise with the local elector and provide them with documentation to satisfy requests. Once resolved we will be able to issue the audit certificate and close the 2012/13 audit. We will update the Committee on progress at the next meeting.</p>
Audit Planning - 2013/14 financial year	<p>Following the completion of the 2012/13 audit, we are now working with the Council to prepare for the 2013/14 audit. We will work with the Finance team throughout the year to support improvements to the accounts compilation and audit processes.</p> <p>Our initial planning visit for the 2013/14 audit is scheduled for January 2014. As part of this visit we will be updating our understanding of key financial systems through discussions with officers and testing controls in these areas.</p> <p>As part of our wider audit planning we are meeting with officers to ensure our work is focused on the key risks facing the Council in respect of its financial statements audit and Value for Money conclusion.</p>
Grant certification work – 2012/13 financial year	<p>We have completed the certification work for two of the four claims required. For both claims our work was completed by the statutory deadlines. The National Non-Domestic Rates and the Pooling Capital Receipts claims were certified without amendments.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of completing the certification of the Teacher's Pensions claim which requires a small amendment.</p> <p>We are also completing work on the Council's Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claim and are on schedule to complete our testing by the 30 November 2013 statutory deadline. Testing of individual benefit awards within the claim has identified some errors which has resulted in additional testing which is currently being completed.</p> <p>We will issue our full certification report on completion of our work.</p>

Progress at November 2013

Work	Comments
Welfare Reform Review	<p>We are currently conducting a national review focussing on how organisations have managed the recent government reforms to welfare benefits. Our report will be based on completed questionnaires and interviews conducted at a number of our local government clients across the country.</p> <p>The report will be shared with the Council on publication.</p>

Emerging issues and developments

Grant Thornton

Financial Resilience In Local Government

Our review into Financial Resilience in Local Government will be released at the end of November. With financial austerity due to continue until at least 2017, our financial health review follows up on Tipping Point published in 2012 and considers key indicators of financial performance, financial governance, strategic financial planning and financial controls. The report will be shared with the Council on publication at the beginning of December 2013.

Local Government Pension s Governance Review

Our [Local Government Pensions Governance Review](#) presents the findings of our first review of Local Government Pension Schemes' governance arrangements and will give senior officers and pension committee chairs:

- an outline of governance and reporting best practice;
- an update on the significant changes to Local Government Pension Schemes; and
- an opportunity for clients to benchmark themselves against peers.



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