

# Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

North Devon District Council  
Year ending 31 March 2019

3 September 2019



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# Introduction



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

The paper also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you as a local authority.

Members of the Governance Committee can find further useful material on our website, where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications. Click on the Grant Thornton logo to be directed to the website [www.grant-thornton.co.uk](http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk).

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



## PSAA Contract Monitoring

North Devon District Council opted into the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Appointing Person scheme which starts with the 2018/19 audit. PSAA appointed Grant Thornton as auditors. PSAA is responsible under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 for monitoring compliance with the contract and is committed to ensuring good quality audit services are provided by its suppliers. Details of PSAA's audit quality monitoring arrangements are available from its website, [www.psaa.co.uk](http://www.psaa.co.uk).

Our contract with PSAA contains a method statement which sets out the firm's commitment to deliver quality audit services, our audit approach and what clients can expect from us.

# Progress at 16 August 2019

## 2018/19

Our audit of the 2018/19 financial statements is now complete. Our Audit Findings Report was discussed with the Governance Committee on 22 July 2018, with a final updated version being issued on 31 July 2019.

We made a number of recommendations to management within our Audit Findings Report which we will follow up as part of our 2019/20 audit planning.

We have issued all our deliverables for the statutory 2018/19 audit (see page 5). The Housing Benefit certification work is due to commence in September.

## 2019/20

We will now begin to look to the 2019/20 financial year and begin our planning processes for the audit.

Our formal work will begin later in the year and in the meantime we will:

- continue to have regular discussions with management to inform our risk assessment for the 2019/20 financial and value for money audits
- review board papers and latest financial and operational performance reports

## Other areas

### Certification of claims and returns

We certify the Council's annual Housing Benefit Subsidy claim in accordance with procedures agreed with the Department for Work and Pensions. This certification work for the 2018/19 claim will be concluded by 30 November 2019.

### Meetings

We meet with the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service and Head of Resources as part of our regular liaison meetings, with our most recent meeting being in April 2019, and continue to be in discussions with finance staff regarding emerging developments and to ensure the audit process is smooth and effective.

### Events

We provide a range of workshops, along with network events for members and publications to support the Council.

# Audit Deliverables

2018/19 Deliverables	Planned Date	Status
<b>Fee Letter</b> Confirming audit fee for 2018/19.	April 2018	Complete
<b>Accounts Audit Plan</b> We are required to issue a detailed accounts audit plan to the Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Council's 2018-19 financial statements.	February 2019	Complete
<b>Interim Audit Findings</b> We will report to you the findings from our interim audit and our initial value for money risk assessment within our Progress Report.	June 2019	Complete
<b>Audit Findings Report</b> The Audit Findings Report will be reported to the July Audit Committee.	July 2019	Complete
<b>Auditor's Report</b> This is the opinion on your financial statement, annual governance statement and value for money conclusion.	July 2019	Complete
<b>Annual Audit Letter</b> This letter communicates the key issues arising from our work.	August 2019	Complete
<b>Annual Certification Letter</b> This letter reports any matters arising from our certification work carried out under the PSAA contract.	December 2019	Not yet due



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