



The Annual Audit Letter for Cotswold District Council

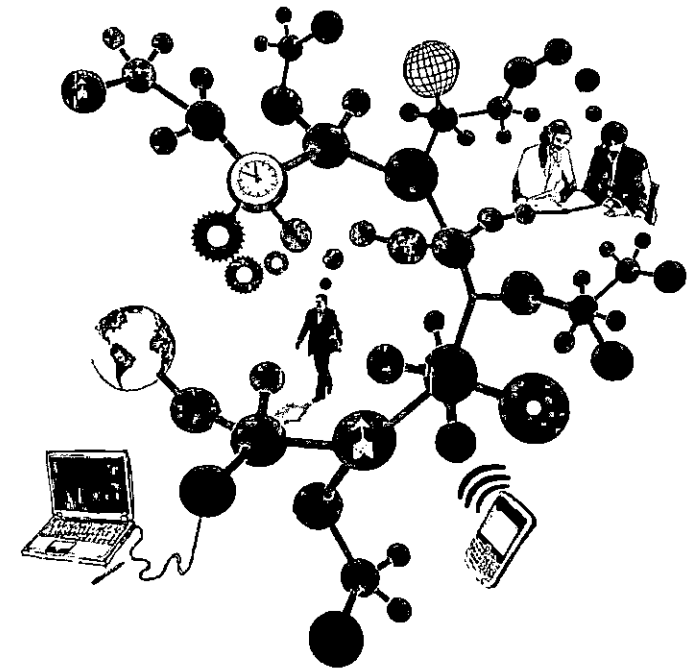
Year ended 31 March 2015

23 October 2015

John Golding
Partner

Julie Masci
Senior Manager

Roy Edwards
Executive



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Key messages

Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at Cotswold District Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public. Our annual work programme, which includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work, has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on 23 February 2015 and was conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and other guidance issued by the Audit Commission and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

<p>5 Financial statements audit (including audit opinion)</p>	<p>We reported our findings arising from the audit of the financial statements in our Audit Findings Report on 22 September 2015 to the Audit Committee. The key messages reported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We identified one adjustment affecting the group's reported financial position, but this did not affect the reported position for the Council. We also identified a small number of adjustments to improve the presentation of the financial statements. • Our work identified a small number of areas where we identified scope for the Council to strengthen its internal controls around the reconciliation of payroll and review of the overs and under accounts. Neither of these matters identified any significant weaknesses. <p>We issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2014/15 financial statements on 30 September 2015, meeting the deadline set by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Our opinion confirms that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Council.</p>
<p>Value for Money (VfM) conclusion</p>	<p>We issued an unqualified VfM conclusion for 2014/15 on 30 September 2015.</p> <p>On the basis of our work, and having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, we were satisfied that in all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2015.</p>

Key messages continued

Certification of housing benefit grant claim	Our work on the certification of the Housing Benefits claim is ongoing. The key messages from our certification work will be reported in our certification report, once all work has been completed.
Audit fee	Our fee for 2014/15 was £59,838 excluding VAT which was in line with our planned fee for the year. Further detail is included within Appendix B.

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Appendix A: Key issues and recommendations

This appendix summarised the significant recommendations identified during the 2014/15 audit.

No.	Issue and recommendation	Priority	Management response/ responsible office/ due date
	No high priority recommendations were identified as a result of our work.		Not applicable.

Appendix B: Reports issued and fees

We confirm below the fees charged for the audit and non-audit services.

Fees for audit services

	Per Audit plan £	Actual fees £
Council audit	59,838	59,838
Ubico Ltd – Joint venture (Note 1)	16,480	TBA
Grant certification on behalf of Audit Commission (Note 2)	5,870	5,870
Total audit fees	82,188	82,188

Fees for other services

Service	Fees £
Non audit related services	
VAT support – GO Shared Services	4,250
Employment Tax Services – GO Shared Services	1,250

Note 1 - This fee represents the whole of the audit fee for Ubico Ltd as the Council holds joint control of this company within its Group.

Note 2 - The indicative fee published by the Public Sector Audit Appointments for grant certification work required in 2014/15 for the Council is £5,870. As the work has not yet been completed on the grant certification, we therefore cannot confirm the final fee.

Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	23 February 2015
Audit Findings Report	22 September 2015
Certification Report (expected)	December 2015
Annual Audit Letter	16 October 2015