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Lorna Baxter
Resources

September 2017

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This matter is being dealt with by Lorna Baxter
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Tel: 07393 001218

Audit of Oxfordshire County Council for the 2016/17 year ended 31 March 2017

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Oxfordshire County Council ("the Council") for the year ended 31 March 2017. I 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 financial position of Oxfordshire County Council as of 31 March 2017 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 2016/17.

I understand that the purpose of your audit of the Council's 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, I make the following representations, which are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as I considered necessary:

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. I have fulfilled my 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 2016/17.
2. I acknowledge my responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. I 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 2016/17. I have approved the financial statements.

3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.
4. I 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 2016/17, that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
5. There are no unadjusted audit differences identified during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented.

B. Fraud

1. I acknowledge my responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
2. I have disclosed to you the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
3. I have disclosed to you all significant facts relating to any frauds, suspected frauds or allegations of fraud known to me that may have affected the Council (regardless of the source or form and including, without limitation, allegations by “whistle-blowers”), whether involving management or employees who have significant roles in internal control. Similarly, I have disclosed to you my knowledge of frauds or suspected frauds affecting the Council involving others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. I have also disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others, that could affect the financial statements.

C. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

I have disclosed to you all identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

D. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. I have provided you with:
 - Access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the Council from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
3. I have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Council and its relevant committees and Cabinet (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: 31 August 2017.
4. I confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. I have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am 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 year end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.
5. I believe that the significant assumptions that have been used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
6. I 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.

E. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. 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.
2. I have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.
3. I 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 the Council has given to third parties.

F. Subsequent Events

Other than schools converting to academy status described in Note 58 to the financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to the end of the reporting period which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

G. Use of the Work of a Specialist

I agree with the findings of the specialists that the Council engaged to evaluate the valuation of land and buildings and investment property 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. I 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 I am not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

H. Estimates

1. I believe that the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used to determine the accounting estimates have been consistently applied and are appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
2. I confirm that the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the Council.
3. I confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimates are complete and made in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
4. I confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimates and disclosures in the financial statements due to subsequent events.

I. Retirement benefits

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

Signed on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council

I confirm that this letter has been discussed and agreed by the Audit & Governance Committee on 6 September 2017.

Signed:

Name Lorna Baxter
Position Director of Finance

Signed:

Name Nick Carter
Position Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee