



# The Annual Audit Letter for West Lancashire Borough Council

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**Year ended 31 March 2014**

**15 October 2014**

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Director

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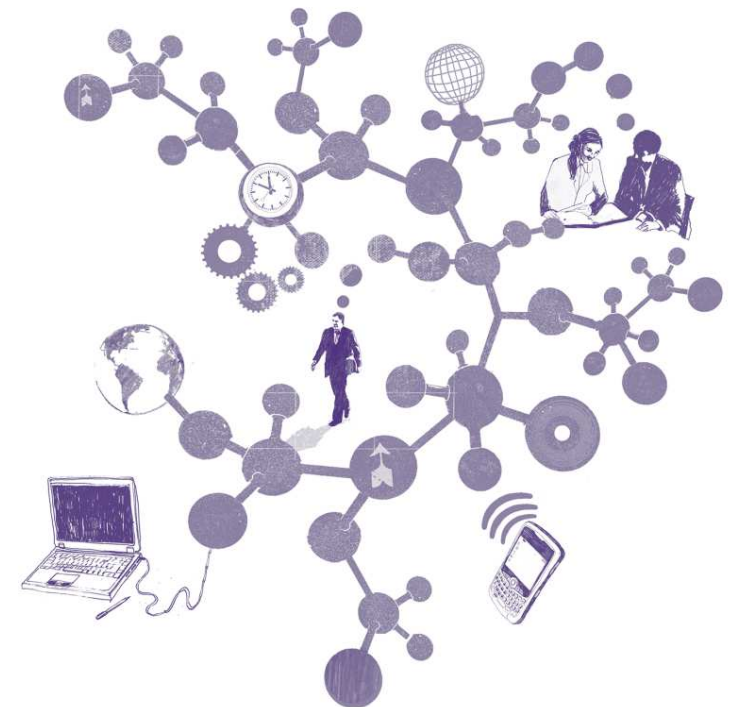
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# Key messages

Our Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at West Lancashire Borough Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2014.

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 3 March 2014 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.

<b>Financial statements audit (including audit opinion)</b>	<p>We reported our findings arising from the audit of the financial statements in our Audit Findings Report on 18 September 2014 to the Audit and Governance Committee. The key messages reported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We anticipated providing an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.</li><li>• We identified no adjustments affecting the Council's reported financial position.</li><li>• The accounts presented for audit were accurate and well presented.</li></ul> <p>We issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2013/14 financial statements 25 September 2014, 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>
<b>Value for Money (VfM) conclusion</b>	<p>We issued an unqualified VfM conclusion for 2013/14 on 25 September 2014.</p> <p>On the basis of our work, and having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, we are 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 2014.</p>

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# Key messages

<b>Whole of Government Accounts</b>	We reviewed the consolidation pack which the Council prepared to support the production of Whole of Government Accounts. We reported that the Council's pack was consistent with the audited financial statements.
<b>Certification of grant claims and returns</b>	We have certified the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return without amendment or qualification. Work on the Housing benefits Subsidy Claim is underway and expect to complete this in time for the certification deadline of 30 November.
<b>Audit fee</b>	Our fee for 2013/14 was £74,928, excluding VAT which was in line with our planned fee for the year and represents no change on the previous year. Further detail is included within appendix A.

# Appendix A: Reports issued and fees

We confirm below the fee charged for the audit and confirm there were no fees for the provision of non audit services.

## Fees

	Per Audit plan £	Actual fees £
Audit Fee*	57,428	58,328
Grant certification fee	17,500	16,600
<b>Total fees</b>	<b>74,928</b>	<b>74,928</b>

\* There is an additional fee of £900 in respect of work on material business rates balances. This additional work was necessary as auditors are no longer required to carry out work to certify NDR3 claims. The additional fee is 50% of the average fee previously charged for NDR3 certifications for district councils and is subject to agreement by the Audit Commission.

The fee for certification work is yet to be confirmed. This is because we were required to do additional testing additional testing to confirm that issues identified in last year's Housing Benefits work have been addressed. At the time of writing this letter, there were still tests to complete.

## Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	3 March 2014
Audit Findings Report	18 September 2014
Certification report (2013)	8 January 2014
VfM – Financial Resilience Report	August 2014
Annual Audit Letter	15 October 2014

## Fees for other services

Service	Fees £
None	Nil



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