

External Audit External Audit Progress report

June 2012

Milton Keynes Council

Audit 2011/12

DRAFT



The Audit Commission is a public corporation set up in 1983 to protect the public purse.

The Commission appoints auditors to councils, NHS bodies (excluding NHS Foundation trusts), police authorities and other local public services in England, and oversees their work. The auditors we appoint are either Audit Commission employees (our in-house Audit Practice) or one of the private audit firms. Our Audit Practice also audits NHS foundation trusts under separate arrangements.

We also help public bodies manage the financial challenges they face by providing authoritative, unbiased, evidence-based analysis and advice.

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Introduction

- 1** The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors. It includes an update on the externalisation of the Audit Practice.
- 2** If you require any additional information regarding the issues included within this briefing, please feel free to contact me or your Audit Manager using the contact details at the end of this update.
- 3** Finally, please also remember to visit our website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) which now enables you to sign-up to be notified of any new content that is relevant to your type of organisation.

Mick West

District Auditor

June 2012

DRAFT

Progress Report

Financial statements

4 My pre-statements visit is substantially complete. The remaining work will be completed in June. I have no matters relating to this work I wish to raise with members.

5 I have met with the finance team to discuss emerging issues relating to the 2011/12 audit. My audit of the 2011/12 financial statements will start in July. I will raise any key issues with members during this process if necessary.

2012/2013

6 Ernst & Young have been appointed as your external auditors from 1 September 2012. The Audit Commission has revised its standing guidance to auditors to ensure a smooth transition to your new audit provider. This includes guidance on co-operation between the incoming and outgoing auditors; and on the use and provision of information. Specific guidance on the handover of audits for appointments made on 1 September 2012 has also been issued to auditors. I will provide you and your officers with further updates as appropriate.

Appendix 1 - Progress against planned outputs

I will discuss reports with your officers before taking them to the Audit Committee.

Table 1:

Activity	Date due	Comment
Opinion audit plan	February 2012	Complete
Interim audit memorandum	May 2012	None required
Annual Governance Statement	September 2012	Not yet due
Opinion on the financial statements and value for money conclusion	30 September 2012	Not yet due
Whole of government accounts	30 September 2012	Not yet due
Final accounts memorandum	October 2012	Not yet due
Annual Audit Letter	October 2012	Not yet due

Contact Details

7 If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, please feel free to contact either your District Auditor or Audit Manager.

8 Alternatively, all Audit Commission reports - and a wealth of other material - can be found on our website: www.audit-commission.gov.uk.

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