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WELCOME

PURPOSE AND USE OF OUR REPORT

We have pleasure in presenting our Audit Plan to the Audit and Standards Committee. This report forms a key part of our communication strategy with you, a strategy which is designed to promote effective two-way communication throughout the audit process with those charged with governance.

It summarises the planned audit strategy for the year ending 31 March 2019 in respect of our audit of the financial statements and use of resources; comprising materiality, key audit risks and the planned approach to these, together with a timetable and the BDO team structure.

The planned audit strategy has been discussed with management to ensure that it incorporates developments in the business during the year under review, the results for the year to date and other required scope changes.

We look forward to discussing this plan with you at the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 16 January 2019 and to receiving your input on the scope and approach.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspects in advance of the meeting please contact one of the team.

This report has been prepared solely for the use of the Audit and Standards Committee and those charged with governance. In preparing this report we do not accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person.



YOUR BDO TEAM



Name	Contact details	Key responsibilities
Lisa Clampin	Tel: 01473 320716	Oversee the audit and sign the audit report
Engagement Lead	lisa.clampin@bdo.co.uk	
Liana Nicholson	Tel: 01473 320715	Management of the audit
Project Manager	liana.nicholson@bdo.co.uk	
Ross Beard	Tel: 01473 320785	Day to day management and supervision of
Assistant Manager	ross.beard@bdo.co.uk	the audit
Hugh Johnson	Tel: 020 7893 2551	Day to day supervision of the audit team
Senior	hugh.johnson@bdo.co.uk	

Lisa Clampin is the engagement lead and has the primary responsibility to ensure that the appropriate audit opinion is given on the financial statements and use of resources.

In meeting this responsibility, she will ensure that the audit has resulted in obtaining sufficient and appropriate evidence to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that:

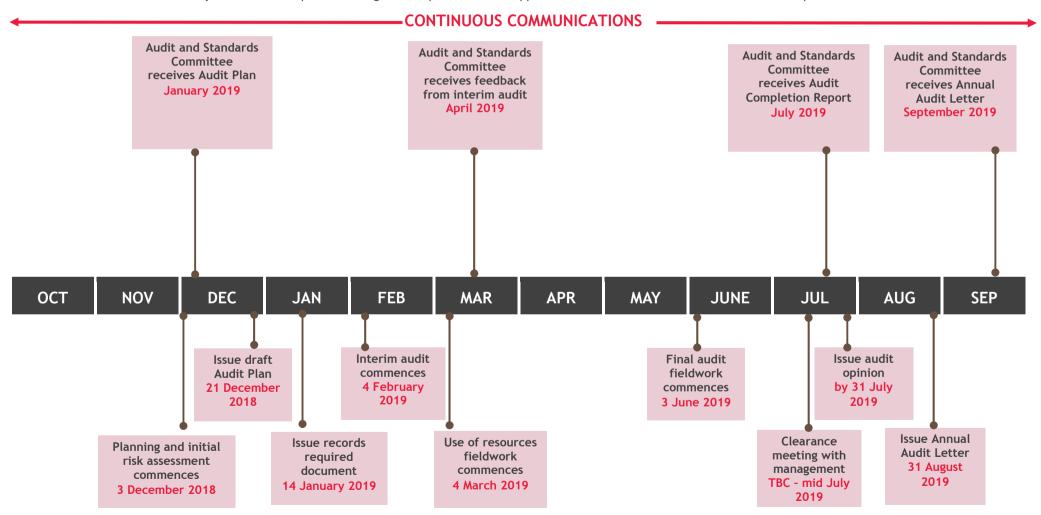
- The financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- The authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

She is responsible for the overall quality of the engagement.

ENGAGEMENT TIMETABLE

TIMETABLE

The timeline below identifies the key dates and anticipated meetings for the production and approval of the audited financial statements and completion of the use of resources audit.



AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2018/19, applicable

other direction.

accounting standards or

OTHER INFORMATION

Other information published together with the audited financial statements is consistent with the financial statements (including the Governance Statement) and our knowledge obtained during the audit.

WGA CONSOLIDATION

The return required to facilitate the preparation of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidated accounts is consistent with the audited financial statements.

USE OF RESOURCES

The authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

ADDITIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES

Where necessary:
Consider the issue of a report in the public interest

The financial

statements give a true

financial position of the

and fair view of the

expenditure for the

period in question.

authority and its

income and

Make a written recommendation to the authority

Allow electors to raise questions about the accounts and consider objections Where necessary:

Apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law

Consider whether to

issue an advisory notice or to make an application for judicial review.

MATERIALITY

AUTHORITY MATERIALITY

	MATERIALITY	CLEARLY TRIVIAL THRESHOLD
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham	£11.5 million	£230,000

Please see Appendix I for detailed definitions of materiality and triviality.

Planning materiality for the Council has been based on 1.4% of the average of the prior two years gross expenditure. This will be revisited when the draft financial statements are received for audit and the Council has prepared consolidated group accounts.

The clearly trivial amount is based on 2% of the materiality level.

OVERALL AUDIT STRATEGY

We will perform a risk based audit on the authority's financial statements and use of resources

This enables us to focus our work on key audit areas.

Our starting point is to obtain an understanding of the authority's business and the specific risks it faces. We review the predecessor auditor's prior year audit file and we discuss with management any changes to the business and management's own view of potential audit risk, to gain an understanding of the authority's activities and to determine which risks impact on our audit. We will continue to update this assessment throughout the audit.

For the financial statements audit, we also confirm our understanding of the accounting systems in order to ensure their adequacy as a basis for the preparation of the financial statements and that proper accounting records have been maintained.

For the use of resources audit, we consider the significance of business and operational risks insofar as they relate to 'proper arrangements', including risks at both sector and authority-specific level, and draw on relevant cost and performance information as appropriate.

We then carry out our audit procedures in response to audit risks.

Audit risks and planned audit responses

For the financial statements audit, under International Standard on Auditing 315 "Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement through understanding the entity and its environment", we are required to consider significant risks that require special audit attention.

In assessing a risk as significant, we exclude the effects of identified controls related to the risk. The auditing standard requires us to consider:

- Whether the risk is a risk of fraud
- Whether the risk is related to recent significant economic, accounting or other developments and, therefore, requires specific attention
- The complexity of transactions
- Whether the risk involves significant transactions with related parties

- The degree of subjectivity in the measurement of financial information related to the risk, especially those measurements involving a wide range of measurement uncertainty
- Whether the risk involves significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual.

For the use of resources audit, the NAO has provided information on potential significant risks such as:

- Organisational change and transformation
- Significant funding gaps in financial planning
- Legislative or policy changes
- Repeated financial difficulties or persistently poor performance
- Information from other inspectorates and review agencies suggesting governance issues or poor service performance.

We consider the relevance of these risks to the authority in forming our risk assessment and audit strategy.

Internal audit

We will ensure that we maximise the benefit of the overall audit effort carried out by internal audit and ourselves, whilst retaining the necessary independence of view.

We understand that internal audit reviews have been undertaken across a range of accounting systems and governance subjects. We will review relevant reports as part of our audit and consider whether to place any reliance on internal audit work as evidence of the soundness of the control environment.

OVERALL AUDIT STRATEGY

Fraud risk assessment

We have discussed with management its assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and the processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud.

Management believes that the risk of material misstatement due to fraud in the authority's financial statements is low and that controls in operation would prevent or detect material fraud. We are informed by management that there have not been any cases of significant or material fraud to their knowledge.

We are required to discuss with those charged with governance their oversight of management's processes for identifying and responding to risks of all fraud.

We expect Audit and Standards Committee members, as those charged with governance, to let us know if there are any actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud of which they are aware. We will make these enquiries as part of the Audit and Standards Committee pre-meetings throughout the year.



Key: ■ Significant risk ■ Normal risk

AUDIT RISK AREAS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE	
Management override	The primary responsibility for the detection of fraud rests with management. Their role in the detection of fraud is an extension of their role in preventing fraudulent activity. They are responsible for establishing a sound system of internal control designed to support the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives and to manage the risks facing the organisation; this includes the risk of fraud. Under auditing standards there is a presumed significant risk of management override of the system of internal controls.	 We will: Test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements Review accounting estimates for biases and evaluate whether the circumstances producing the bias, if any, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud Obtain an understanding of the business rationale for significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual. 	Not applicable.	

AUDIT RISK AREAS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE	
Revenue and expenditure recognition	Under auditing Standards there is a presumption that income recognition presents a fraud risk. For local authorities, the risks can be identified as affecting the accuracy and existence of income and expenditure. In particular, we consider there to be a significant risk in respect of the existence (recognition) and accuracy of the revenue and capital of grants that are subject to performance and / or conditions before these may be recognised as revenue in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES). We also consider there to be a significant risk in relation to the existence and accuracy of fees and charges recorded in the CIES and the completeness of expenditure. In the public sector, auditors focus their consideration of the risk of fraud and error on expenditure. As most public bodies are net spending bodies, then the risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to expenditure may be greater than the risk of material misstatements due to fraud related to revenue recognition.	 We will: Test a sample of grants subject to performance and / or conditions to confirm that conditions of the grant have been met before the income is recognised in the CIES Test an increased sample of fees and charges and investment rental income to ensure income has been recorded in the correct period and that all income that should have been recorded has been recorded Test an increased sample of transactions to ensure that expenditure has been recorded in the correct period. 	Government grant funding will be agreed to information published by the sponsoring Department.	

AUDIT RISK ARE	AUDIT RISK AREAS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE		
Non-current asset valuations	Local authorities are required to ensure that the carrying value of non-current assets is not materially different to the current value (operational assets) or fair value (surplus assets, assets held for sale and investment properties) at the balance sheet date. The Council has appointed an external valuer to carry out revaluations on assets as at 31 March 2019. Due to the significant value of the Council's non-current assets, and the high degree of estimation uncertainty, there is a risk over the valuation of non-current assets where valuations are based on assumptions or where updated valuations have not been provided for a class of assets at the year-end.	 Review the instructions provided to the valuer and the valuer's skills and expertise in order to determine if we can rely on the management expert. Confirm that the basis of valuation of assets valued in year is appropriate. Check that the beacon basis used to value the housing revenue account assets has been appropriately applied. Review the reasonableness of assumptions used in the valuation of non-current assets, the accuracy and completeness of the source data used by the valuer and the Council's critical assessment of the external valuer's conclusions. Check that the accounting policy adopted in relation to the valuation of assets is reasonable and that the aggregate of any assets that are not revalued in year would not create a material expected movement when compared to independent data. Review the reasonableness of assumptions used in any roll forward of asset values from valuation date to the balance sheet date and the value of assets not included in the valuation exercise. 	We will review independent data that shows indices and price movements for classes of assets against the percentage movement applied by the Council. We will follow up valuation movements that appear unusual against indices, or any assets which have not been revalued at the yearend which may have had material movements since the last formal valuation.		

AUDIT RISK AREAS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE	
Pension liability assumptions	The net pension liability comprises the Council's share of the market value of assets held in the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Pension Fund, and the estimated future liability to pay pensions. An actuarial estimate of the pension fund liability is calculated by an independent firm of actuaries with specialist knowledge and experience. The estimate is based on the most up to date membership data held by the pension fund and has regard to local factors such as mortality rates and expected pay rises along with other assumptions around inflation when calculating the liability. There is a risk the membership data and cash flows provided to the actuary as 31 March may not be accurate, or the valuation uses inappropriate assumptions to value the liability. Relatively small adjustments to assumptions used can have a material impact on the Council's share of the scheme liability.	 We will: Agree the disclosures to the information provided by the pension fund actuary Review the consulting actuary report on the competency and experience of the actuary and the reasonableness of the assumptions used in the calculation Obtain assurance over the controls for providing complete and accurate membership data to the actuary Check whether any significant changes in membership data have been communicated to the actuary. 	We will use the PwC consulting actuary report for the review of the methodology of the actuary and reasonableness of the assumptions.	
Group Accounts	The Council is expected to produce consolidated Group Accounts for the first time in 2018/19. The Council holds interests in a number of subsidiary organisations and is involved in joint venture arrangements. The Council needs to ensure that it considers the requirements of IFRS 10 and IFRS 12, giving appropriate consideration to whether each of the subsidiaries are required to be consolidated. There is a significant risk that the consolidated financial statements will not be accurately prepared.	 We will: Hold early discussions with the Council to ensure that we agree with the approach taken to the consolidated group accounts Review the Council's documented consideration of the requirements of IFRS 10 and IFRS 12 Perform audit testing on the draft consolidated Group Accounts to ensure that they are compliant with the Code. 	Not applicable.	

AUDIT RISK AREAS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE	
Related party	We need to consider if the disclosures in the financial statements concerning related party transactions are complete and adequate and in line with the requirements of the accounting standards.	 We will: Update our understanding of the related party transactions identification procedures in place and review relevant information concerning any such identified transactions 	Companies House searches for undisclosed interests.	
transactions		 Discuss with management and review senior management declarations to ensure there are no potential related party transactions which have not been disclosed; this is something we will require you to include in your management representation letter to us. 		
New Accounting standards	Two new accounting standards will apply for the 2018/19 financial statements, these are IFRS 9: Financial Instruments and IFRS 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers. At the time of issuing this Audit Plan we have not been provided with a clear consideration of what the impact of these standards will be on the financial statements.	 We will: Review the Council's consideration and approach when applying IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 to the financial statements Compare the accounting policies adopted by the Council to the requirements of these new accounting standards. 	Not applicable.	

AUDIT RISK AREAS	- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE
Allowances for non-collection of receivables	The Council's bad debt provision on aged debt is determined for each income stream using available collection rate data. The significant provisions include council tax arrears, non-domestic rates arrears, housing benefit overpayments, housing rents arrears and car parking. The bad debt provision is material overall.	We will review the provision model for significant income streams and debtor balances to assess whether it appropriately reflects historical collection rates by age of debt or arrears.	Not applicable.
	There is a risk that the provisions may not accurately reflect collection rates based on age or debt recovery rates for that income stream.		
Componentisation of council	For dwelling properties, we consider the split in value between land and building used in 2017/18 to be unusual and in addition we note the dwelling properties were not componentised. There is a risk that the annual depreciation	 We will: Consider the reasonableness of the split in value between land and building using comparatives from other local authorities. 	Comparatives from other local authorities.
dwellings	charge is materially misstated.	 Consider if a lack componentisation of buildings results in a material misstatement to the depreciation charge. 	

AUDIT RISK AREAS - USE OF RESOURCES				
RISK	DESCRIPTION	PLANNED AUDIT RESPONSE	EXTERNAL DATA TO BE USED TO CORROBORATE AUDIT EVIDENCE	
Sustainable resource deployment	The update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020/21 has forecast further reductions in Government core grant funding and a budget gap if £11.5m (after a planned one-off use of reserves). The current forecast position for 2018/19 is an overspend of £3.818, however this is heavily reliant on the successful delivery of the People and Resilience Action Plan. Identifying the required level of savings from 2018/19 will be a challenge and is likely to require difficult decisions around service provision and alternative delivery models. There is a significant risk that this will not be achieved, impacting on the financial sustainability of the Council in the medium term.	 Review the assumptions used in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and assess the reasonableness of the cost pressures and the amount of Government grant reductions applied Monitor the delivery of the budgeted savings in 2018/19 and the plans to deliver identified savings for 2019/20, particularly within the Adult and Children's services directorates Review the strategies to close the budget gap in the medium term Review the Council's reserve policy to ensure that the minimum level of reserves is maintained after the planned use of balances. 	Not applicable.	

INDEPENDENCE

INDEPENDENCE

Under Auditing and Ethical Standards, we are required as auditors to confirm our independence to 'those charged with governance'. In our opinion, and as confirmed by you, we consider that for these purposes it is appropriate to designate the Audit and Standards Committee as those charged with governance.

Our internal procedures are designed to ensure that all partners and professional staff are aware of relationships that may be considered to have a bearing on our objectivity and independence as auditors. The principal statements of policies are set out in our firm-wide guidance. In addition, we have embedded the requirements of the Standards in our methodologies, tools and internal training programmes. The procedures require that engagement leads are made aware of any matters which may reasonably be thought to bear on the firm's independence and the objectivity of the engagement lead and the audit staff. This document considers such matters in the context of our audit for the year ending 31 March 2019.

We confirm that the firm complies with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors and, in our professional judgement, is independent and objective within the meaning of those Standards.

In our professional judgement the policies and safeguards in place ensure that we are independent within the meaning of all regulatory and professional requirements and that the objectivity of the audit engagement lead and audit staff is not impaired. These policies include engagement lead and manager rotation, for which rotation is required after 5 years and 10 years respectively.

INDEPENDENCE - ENGAGEMENT TEAM ROTATION	
SENIOR TEAM MEMBERS	NUMBER OF YEARS INVOLVED
Lisa Clampin - Engagement lead	1
Liana Nicholson - Senior Audit Manager	1

Should you have any comments or queries regarding this confirmation we would welcome their discussion in more detail.

FEES

FEES SUMMARY

Our proposed fees, excluding VAT, for the year ending 31 March 2019 are:

	2018/19 Proposed fee £	2017/18 Actual fee £
Code audit fee	127,801	165,975
Fees for non-audit services - audit related services		
Certification of housing benefits subsidy claim	19,800	34,358
Certification of pooled housing capital receipts return	3,250	5,750
Certification of teachers' pensions return	3,250	2,900
Fees for other non-audit services	-	-
	26,300	43,008
TOTAL FEES	154,101	208,983

Billing arrangements

We will raise invoices for the Code audit fee in two instalments as follows:

- £63,900.50 in September 2018
- £63,900.50 in March 2019

Following our firm's standard terms of business, full payment will be due within 14 days of receipt of invoice. Fee invoices for other services, including the certification of the housing benefits subsidy claim, will be raised as the work is completed.

Amendments to the proposed fees

If we need to propose any amendments to the fees during the course of the audit, where our assessment of risk and complexity are significantly different from those reflected in the proposed fee or where we are required to carry out work in exercising our additional powers and duties, we will first discuss this with the Director of Finance. If necessary, we will also prepare a report outlining the reasons why the fee needs to change for discussion with the Audit and Standards Committee. It is likely that a variation to the fee will be required to the code audit fee in relation to the Council preparing consolidated group accounts for the first time in 2018/19.

Our fee is based on the following assumptions

- The complete draft financial statements and supporting working papers will be prepared to a standard suitable for audit. All balances will be reconciled to underlying accounting records.
- Key dates will be met, including receipt of draft accounts and working papers prior to commencement of the final audit fieldwork.
- We will receive only one draft of the financial statements prior to receiving the final versions for signing.
- A near final draft of the Annual Report will be available at commencement of the final audit visit.
- Within reason, personnel we require to hold discussions with will be available during the period of our on-site work (we will set up meetings with key staff in advance).

APPENDIX I: MATERIALITY

CONCEPT AND DEFINITION

- The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to appropriate accounting principles and statutory requirements.
- We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing our audit, and in evaluating the effect of misstatements. For planning, we consider materiality to be the magnitude by which misstatements, including omissions, could influence the economic decisions of reasonable users that are taken on the basis of the financial statements. In order to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that any misstatements exceed materiality, we use a lower materiality level, performance materiality, to determine the extent of testing needed. Importantly, misstatements below these levels will not necessarily be evaluated as immaterial as we also take account of the nature of identified misstatements, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence, when evaluating their effect on the financial statements as a whole.
- Materiality therefore has qualitative as well as quantitative aspects and an item may be considered material, irrespective of its size, if it has an impact on (for example):
 - Narrative disclosure e.g. accounting policies, going concern
 - Statutory performance targets
 - Instances when greater precision is required (e.g. senior manager remuneration disclosures).
- International Standards on Auditing UK also allow the auditor to set a lower level of materiality for particular classes of transaction, account balances or disclosures for which
 misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis
 of the financial statements.

CALCULATION AND DETERMINATION

- We have determined materiality based on professional judgement in the context of our knowledge of the authority, including consideration of factors such as sector developments, financial stability and reporting requirements for the financial statements.
- We determine materiality in order to:
 - Assist in establishing the scope of our audit engagement and audit tests
 - Calculate sample sizes
 - Assist in evaluating the effect of known and likely misstatements on the financial statements.

APPENDIX I: MATERIALITY

REASSESSMENT OF MATERIALITY

- We will reconsider materiality if, during the course of our audit engagement, we become aware of facts and circumstances that would have caused us to make a different determination of planning materiality if we had been aware.
- Further, when we have performed all our tests and are ready to evaluate the results of those tests (including any misstatements we detected) we will reconsider whether materiality combined with the nature, timing and extent of our auditing procedures, provided a sufficient audit scope. If we conclude that our audit scope was sufficient, we will use materiality to evaluate whether uncorrected misstatements (individually or in aggregate) are material.
- You should be aware that any misstatements that we identify during our audit, both corrected and uncorrected errors, might result in additional audit procedures being necessary.

UNADJUSTED ERRORS

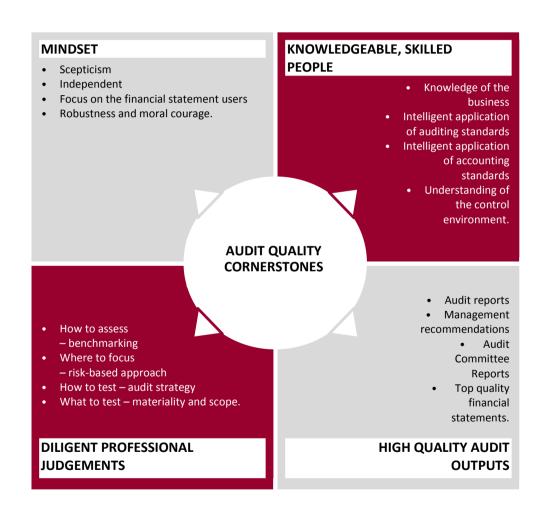
- In accordance with auditing standards, we will communicate to the Audit and Standards Committee all uncorrected misstatements identified during our audit, other than those which we believe are 'clearly trivial'.
- Clearly trivial is defined as matters which will be of a wholly different (smaller) order of magnitude than the materiality thresholds used in the audit, and will be matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate.
- We will obtain written representations from the Audit and Standards Committee, confirming that in their opinion these uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate and that, in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole, no adjustments are required.
- There are a number of areas where we would strongly recommend/request any misstatements identified during the audit process being adjusted. These include:
 - Clear cut errors whose correction would cause non-compliance with statutory performance targets, management remuneration, other contractual obligations or governmental regulations that we consider are significant.
 - Other misstatements that we believe are material or clearly wrong.

APPENDIX II: AUDIT QUALITY

AUDIT QUALITY

BDO's audit quality cornerstones underpin the firm's definition of audit quality

- BDO is committed to audit quality. It is a standing item on the agenda of the Leadership Team, who in conjunction with the Audit Stream Executive, monitors the actions required to maintain a high level of audit quality within the audit stream and address findings from external and internal inspections. We welcome feedback from external bodies and are committed to implementing necessary actions to address their findings.
- We recognise the importance of continually seeking to improve audit quality and enhancing certain areas. Alongside reviews from a number of external regulators, the firm undertakes a thorough annual internal Audit Quality Assurance Review and as a member firm of BDO International network we are also subject to a quality review visit every three years.



The matters raised in our report prepared in connection with the audit are those we believe should be brought to the attention of the organisation. They do not purport to be a complete record of all matters arising. No responsibility to any third party is accepted.

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