

# The Audit Findings for Tamworth Borough Council

### Year ended 31 March 2015

September 2015

### **John Gregory**

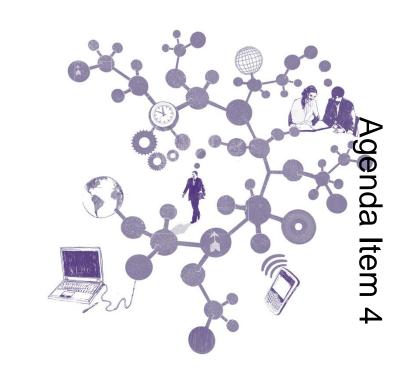
**Engagement Lead** T 0121 232 5333 E john.gregory@uk.gt.com

#### **Joan Barnett**

Manager T 0121 232 5399 E joan.m.barnett@uk.gt.com

#### **Denise Mills**

In-Charge Auditor T 0121 232 5306 E denise.f.mills@uk.gt.com





Tamworth Borough Council Marmion House Lichfield Street Tamworth Staffordshire B79 7BZ

Grant Thornton UK LLP Colmore Plaza 20 Colmore Circus Birmingham West Midlands B4 6AT

24 September 2015

(T +44 (0)121 212 4014)

DeamMembers of the Audit Committee

www.grant-thornton.co.uk

### Aud Findings for Tamworth Borough Council for the year ending 31 March 2015

This Audit Findings report highlights the significant findings arising from the audit for the benefit of those charged with governance (in the case of Tamworth Borough Council, the Audit and Governance Committee), as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditors we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Yours sincerely

#### Chartered Accountants

Grant Thomton UK LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales: No.OC307742. Registered office: Grant Thomton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP.

A list of members is available from our registered office. Grant Thomton UK LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Grant Thomton UK LLP is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. Please see grant-thomton.co.uk for further details.

### Contents

1. Executive summary	ī
1. DACCOUVE Summary	
2. Audit findings	8
3. Value for Money	17
4. Fees, non-audit services and independence	2
5. Communication of audit matters	23

### Appendices

A Audit opinion

Page 5

# **Section 1:** Executive summary

	ບ ວ C xecutive summary
	Qudit findings
03.	Value for Money
04.	Fees, non-audit services and independence
05.	Communication of audit matters

### Executive summary

### **Purpose of this report**

This report highlights the key matters arising from our audit of Tamworth Borough Council's (the Council) financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. It is also used to report our audit findings to management and those charged with governance in accordance with the requirements of International Standard on Auditing 260 (ISA UK&I).

Under the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council's financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position and expenditure and income for the year and whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. We are also required to reach a formal confision on whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the Value for Money conclusion).

### Introduction

In the conduct of our audit we have not had to alter or change our planned audit approach, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan dated 26 March 2015.

Our audit is substantially complete although we are finalising our work in the following areas:

- · obtaining and reviewing the final management letter of representation
- updating our post balance sheet events review, to the date of signing the opinion

We received draft financial statements and accompanying working papers at the start of our audit, in accordance with the agreed timetable.

### Key issues arising from our audit

### Financial statements opinion

We anticipate providing an unqualified opinion in respect of the financial statements.

The key messages arising from our audit of the Council's financial statements are:

- the draft accounts were of a good quality
- the audit did not identify any material misstatements
- finance staff responded promptly to audit queries, facilitating the prompt completion of the audit

We have identified no adjustments affecting the Council's reported financial position. We did identify one disclosure error, and requested some adjustments to improve the presentation of the financial statements. Officers have also worked hard to make the accounts more readable by removing unnecessary content such as notes and accounting policies for which there are no material transactions, whilst still complying with Code requirements.

Further details are set out in section two of this report.

### Value for Money conclusion

We are pleased to report that, based on our review of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, we propose to give an unqualified VfM conclusion.

Further detail of our work on Value for Money is set out in section three of this report

### Whate of Government Accounts (WGA)

We two completed our work on the Whole of Government Accounts and have no issues which we wish to highlight for your attention.

#### **Controls**

### Roles and responsibilities

The Council's management is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of risk, and for developing, operating and monitoring the system of internal control.

Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we report these to the Council.

### **Findings**

Our work has not identified any control weaknesses which we wish to highlight for your attention.

Further details are provided within section two of this report.

### The way forward

Matters arising from the financial statements audit and review of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources have been discussed with the Executive Director Corporate Services.

### **Acknowledgment**

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Grant Thornton UK LLP September 2015

# Section 2: Audit findings

01.	Executive summary
02.	Audit findings
03.	walue for Money
	Pees, non-audit services and independence
	Communication of audit matters

### Audit findings

In this section we present our findings in respect of matters and risks identified at the planning stage of the audit and additional matters that arose during the course of our work. We set out on the following pages the work we have performed and the findings arising from our work in respect of the audit risks we identified in our audit plan, presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 26 March 2015. We also set out the adjustments to the financial statements arising from our audit worked our findings in respect of internal controls.

### **Changes to Audit Plan**

We we not made any changes to our Audit Plan as previously communicated to you on 26 March 2015.

### **Audit opinion**

Our proposed audit opinion is set out in Appendix A.

### Audit findings against significant risks

"Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgmental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, either due to size or nature, and that therefore occur infrequently. Judgmental matters may include the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty" (ISA (UK&I) 315).

In this section we detail our response to the significant risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan. As we noted in our plan, there are two presumed significant risks which are applicable to all audits under auditing standards.

	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
Lage 11	Improper revenue recognition Under ISA (UK&I) 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper recognition	Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at Tamworth Borough Council, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:  • there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition • opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited • the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Tamworth Borough Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.	We have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted.
2.	Management override of controls Under ISA (UK&I) 240 there is a presumed risk of management over-ride of controls	We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:  review of accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management  testing of journal entries  review of unusual significant transactions	Our audit work has not identified any evidence of management override of controls. In particular the findings of our review of journal controls and testing of journal entries has not identified any significant issues.  We set out later in this section of the report our work and findings on key accounting estimates and judgments.

# Audit findings against other risks

In this section we detail our response to the other risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan.

Transaction cycle	Description of risk	Work completed	Assurance gained & issues arising
Operating expenses  Page 12	Creditors understated or not recorded in the correct period	<ul> <li>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</li> <li>documented our understanding of processes and key controls over the transaction cycle</li> <li>undertaken walkthrough of the key controls to assess the whether those controls were in line with our documented understanding</li> <li>reviewed and tested the reconciliation between the creditors ledger and the general ledger.</li> <li>gained an understanding of the accruals process and any assumptions used.</li> <li>substantively tested post year end payments to ensure expenditure is recorded in the correct period.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
Employee remuneration	Employee remuneration accrual understated	<ul> <li>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</li> <li>documented our understanding of the employee remuneration system and completed walkthroughs where we have identified that the controls are operating effectively.</li> <li>undertaken testing of payroll expenditure from a sample of employees selected throughout the year.</li> <li>reviewed and tested the reconciliation between payroll and the general ledger.</li> <li>performed analytical procedures of the payroll on a month by trend analysis.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
Welfare expenditure	Welfare benefit expenditure improperly computed	<ul> <li>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</li> <li>documented our understanding of the housing benefit system and completed walkthroughs where we have identified that the controls are operating effectively.</li> <li>performed detailed testing of benefits expenditure by following the HBCOUNT methodology.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

© 2015 Grant Thornton UK LLP | Audit Findings Report 2014/15 | September 2015

## Accounting policies, estimates & judgements

In this section we report on our consideration of accounting policies, in particular revenue recognition policies, and key estimates and judgements made and included with the Council's financial statements.

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
Revenue recognition	<ul> <li>The Council's policy is set out in its accounting policies (Note 1 in supporting notes to the financial statements):</li> <li>Accounting Policy 2 – Accruals of income and expenditure</li> <li>Accounting Policy 12 – Government Grants and Contributions</li> <li>Accounting Policy 24 – Accounting for Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Council's policies are appropriate and consistent with the relevant accounting framework – the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice</li> <li>Minimal judgement is involved</li> <li>Accounting policy is properly disclosed</li> </ul>	Green
Estmates and judgements  O	<ul> <li>Key estimates and judgements include:</li> <li>pension fund valuations</li> <li>useful life of capital assets</li> <li>impairments</li> <li>Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) valuations</li> <li>Business Rates Retention</li> </ul>	There has been appropriate disclosure of key estimates and judgements	Green

#### Accesement

- Marginal accounting policy which could potentially attract attention from regulators
- Accounting policy appropriate and disclosures sufficient

Accounting policy appropriate but scope for improved disclosure

### Accounting policies, estimates & judgements continued

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
Going concern	The Directors have a reasonable expectation that the services provided by the Council will continue for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.	We have reviewed the Directors' assessment and are satisfied with managements' assessment that the going concern basis is appropriate for the 2014/15 financial statements.	Green
Otter accounting policies  O  4	We have reviewed the Council's policies against the requirements of the CIPFA Code and accounting standards.	Our review of accounting policies has not highlighted any issues which we wish to bring to your attention	Green

# Other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we are required by auditing standards to communicate to those charged with governance.

	Issue	Commentary
1.	Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit Committee. We have not been made aware of any other incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit.
2.	Matters in relation to laws and regulations	We are not aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
3.	Written representations	A letter of representation has been requested from the Council.
4.	Disclosures	Our review found no non-trivial omissions in the financial statements
5. T	Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related party transactions which have not been disclosed
6. g	Confirmation requests from	We obtained direct confirmations from third parties for the Council's material bank and short term investment balances . These confirmations did not raise any issues about the sums recognised in the Council's financial statements.

15

### Internal controls

The purpose of an audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements.

Our audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. We considered and walked through the internal controls for Employee Remuneration, Operating Expenses and Welfare Expenditure as set out on page 10 above.

The controls were found to be operating effectively and we have no matters to report to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Page 16

## Misclassifications & disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

1	Misclassification	3,000	Borrowing	Re-categorisation of two loans that have a maturity of less than 12 months from long term borrowing to short term borrowing.
2	Disclosure	N/A	Various	Officers have removed a number of non-material notes to improve the readability of the accounts.

Page 17

### **Section 3:** Value for Money

(	Pag
01.	Executive summary
02.	Qudit findings
03.	Value for Money
03. 04.	

### Value for Money

### Value for money conclusion

The Code of Audit Practice 2010 (the Code) describes the Council's responsibilities to put in place proper arrangements to:

- secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources;
- ensure proper stewardship and governance; and
- review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required to give our VfM conclusion based on two criteria specified by the Audit Commission which support our reporting responsibilities under the Code.

These criteria are:

The Council has proper arrangements in place for securing financial resilience - the Council has robust systems and processes to manage effectively financial risks and opportunities, and to secure a stable financial position that enalities it to continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Jouncil has proper arrangements for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness - the Council is prioritising its resources within tighter budgets, for example by achieving cost reductions and by improving efficiency and productivity.

### **Key findings**

### Securing financial resilience

We have undertaken a review which considered the Council's arrangements against the three expected characteristics of proper arrangements as defined by the Audit Commission:

- Financial governance;
- Financial planning; and
- · Financial control.

Overall our work concluded that the Council's arrangements for securing financial resilience have proved effective. There is robust challenge and support from members, and the Council prepares and keeps under review its medium term financial plan. There are good arrangements in place to monitor and manage revenue and capital budgets. This includes regular reports to management and members on financial and service performance during the year, including savings achieved and actions required to address any shortfall or additional spending.

### Challenging economy, efficiency and effectiveness

We have considered the Council's arrangements to challenge economy, efficiency and effectiveness against the following themes:

- Prioritising resources
- Improving efficiency & productivity

The Council has adequate arrangements in place to identify and deliver savings.

### **Overall VfM conclusion**

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 has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2015.

We set out below our detailed findings against six risk areas which have been used to assess the Council's performance against the Audit Commission's criteria. We summarise our assessment of each risk area using a red, amber or green (RAG) rating, based on the following definitions:

Green	Adequate arrangements
Amber	Adequate arrangements, with areas for development
Red	Inadequate arrangements

The tible below and overleaf summarises our overall rating for each of the themes reviewed:

Theme	Summary findings	RAG rating
Key indicators of performance	The Council has:	Green
	not faced any cash flow issues in 2014/15	
	falling employee costs following the officer restructure.	
	<ul> <li>an underspend of £0.936m against its 2014/15 revenue budget, due largely to vacant posts and general underspends on utilities, supplies and services</li> </ul>	
	The Council's earmarked and General Fund reserve balances have increased slightly during the year. A comparison of levels of usable reserves to other similar local authorities shows that the Council has above average general fund and earmarked reserves (as at 31/3/14).	
Strategic financial planning	Each year the Council updates its medium term financial plan alongside the current year budget forecasts. By presenting both a short-term and long-term financial perspective, the Council is able to demonstrate it is aware of how both documents complement each other and support its Corporate Vision and Strategic Priorities.	Green
Financial governance	The Council has appropriate risk management arrangements in place, with regular reporting of strategic risks to Members. Regular financial and non-financial performance information is both provided to officers and Members.	Green

Theme	Summary findings	RAG rating
Financial control	The Council has a track record for delivering budgeted savings and the Council's longer-term financial planning includes a policy on the level of reserves required for sound financial standing.	Green
Prioritising resources	The Council has adequate arrangements in place to:	Green
	challenge delivery methods and consider alternative options	
	consult with key stakeholders when challenging delivery methods and alternative options	
	inform and make key decisions on how to make savings to services	
:	understand the impact and outcome of decisions that it makes.	
Improving efficiency & productivity	The Council has:	Green
	<ul> <li>adequate arrangements in place to understand its costs and inform its reviews of where cost savings in service delivery can be made</li> </ul>	
ס	sound IT systems and data quality arrangements in place.	

age 21

# **Section 4:** Fees, non-audit services and independence

(	Pag
01.	Executive summary
02.	Nudit findings
03.	Value for Money
04.	Fees, non-audit services and independence
05.	Communication of audit matters

# rage za

### Fees, non-audit services and independence

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

#### **Fees**

	Per Audit plan £	Actual fees £
Council audit	65,550	65,550
Grant certification on behalf of		
Audit Commission	15,630	15,630
Total audit fees	81,180	81,180

#### **Independence and ethics**

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards and therefore we confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards.

### Section 5: Communication of audit matters

05.	Communication of audit matters
04.	Fees, non-audit services and independence
03.	Value for Money
02.	Audit findings
	Executive summary
9	D യ O

### Communication of audit matters to those charged with governance

International Standard on Auditing ISA (UK&) 260, as well as other (UK&I) ISAs, prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table opposite.

The Audit Plan outlined our audit strategy and plan to deliver the audit, while this Audit Findings report presents the key issues and other matters arising from the audit, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

#### **Respective responsibilities**

The Audit Findings Report has been prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission (www.audit-commission.gov.uk).

We have been appointed as the Council's independent external auditors by the Audit Commission, the body responsible for appointing external auditors to local public bodies in England. As external auditors, we have a broad remit covering finance and governance matters.

Our nnual work programme is set in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice (the Code) issued by the Audit Commission and includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work. Our work considers the Council's key risks when reaching our conclusions under the Code.

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. We have considered how the Council is fulfilling these responsibilities.

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	✓	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit. Form, timing and expected general content of communications	✓	
Views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting and financial reporting practices, significant matters and issues arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		✓
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	✓	✓
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence.  Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged	<b>√</b>	<b>~</b>
Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence		
Material weaknesses in internal control identified during the audit		✓
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or others which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		<b>√</b>
Compliance with laws and regulations		✓
Expected auditor's report		✓
Uncorrected misstatements		✓
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		✓
Significant matters in relation to going concern		✓

Appendices

### Appendix A: Audit opinion

### We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unmodified audit report

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

We have audited the financial statements of Tamworth Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Statement of Movement on Housing Revenue Account Balance, the Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15.

This report is made solely to the members of Tamworth Borough Council, as a body, in accordance with Part I of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Reponsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Executive Director Corporate Services and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Executive Director Corporate Services Responsibilities, the Executive Director Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards also require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Executive Director Corporate Services; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

#### Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

give a true and fair view of the financial position of Tamworth Borough Council as at 31 March 2015 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and

have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 and applicable law.

#### Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

#### Matters on which we report by exception

We are required to report to you if:

in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007; or we issue a report in the public interest under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998; or we designate under section 11 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 a recommendation as one that requires the Authority to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response; or we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

### Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

#### Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under Section 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to Toper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission in October 20.

Whereport if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Appropriate has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of concess. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

### Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria, published by the Audit Commission in October 2014, as to whether the Authority has proper arrangements for:

securing financial resilience; and

challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Audit Commission has determined these two criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2015.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

#### Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission in October 2014, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Tamworth Borough Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2015.

#### Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Tamworth Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

John Gregory for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

Colmore Plaza 20 Colmore Circus Birmingham West Midlands B4 6AT

xx September 2015



© 2015 Grant Thornton UK LLP. All rights reserved.

'Grant Thornton' means Grant Thornton UK LLP, a limited liability partnership.

Grant Thornton is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (Grant Thornton International). References to 'Grant Thornton' are to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms operate and refer to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton International and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. Services are delivered independently by member firms, which are not responsible for the services or activities of one another. Grant Thornton International does not provide services to clients.

grant-thornton.co.uk

This page is intentionally left blank