

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT – DECEMBER 2012

Work	Progress
2012/12 Grant Certification	We are on track to complete the certification of the Council's 2011/12 grant claims and returns by 31 December 2012. Our work to date has not identified any significant issues with the compilation or completeness of the Council's returns. We will report our findings from all of the grant certification work in our summary report to the Audit and Governance Board in March 2013.
2012/12 Financial Resilience report	As part of our Value for Money work in 2011-12 we produced a separate Financial Resilience report. This is the final version of the report. Please see separate agenda item.
2012/13 Fee Letter	Please see separate agenda item
2012/13 Audit Planning	We have recently held planning meetings with both internal audit and the finance team. We will be starting our review of the Council's material systems in December and we will provide you with a detailed audit plan in March 2013. As part of our wider audit planning we will continue to meet senior officers to ensure that our work is focused on the key risks facing the Council.
Publications	We have included a summary of the national reports that have been issued since the last Audit and Governance Board meeting: 'Towards a tipping point?' Our second national study 'Towards a tipping point?' will be published on 6 December. The report draws on work completed to inform our 2011/12 value for money conclusions in local authorities, including our review of financial resilience at the Council. 'Sustainable Businesses- Navigating towards a more sustainable future' Our recent survey of 200 mid-market businesses examines the extent to which sustainability issues are integrated into a company's DNA, embedded in its business model and reported on as such. Our report, 'Sustainable Businesses- Navigating towards a more sustainable future', examines these issues. This report is an insightful

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background into the sustainability challenges faced by businesses today and contains a section on the issues faced by local authorities. Hard copies of the report can be provided on request or accessed via the following link:

<http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk/en/Services/Public-Sector/>

Research programme

We are working with the New Local Government Network on a research programme to support councillors in thinking about how to rise to the challenge of leading the process of innovation, adaption and change that the sector is facing. The programme includes two full day events for councillors. Grant Thornton will be attending and speaking at these events, which are in January and February 2013. Refer to the link below for more information. These development and learning workshops are completely free to attend.

<http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk/Documents/future-councillors.pdf>

Grant Thornton UK LLP

December 2012