

# General Purposes and Audit Committee Progress Report for Croydon Council

*Year ended 31 March 2017*

June 2017

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# Introduction

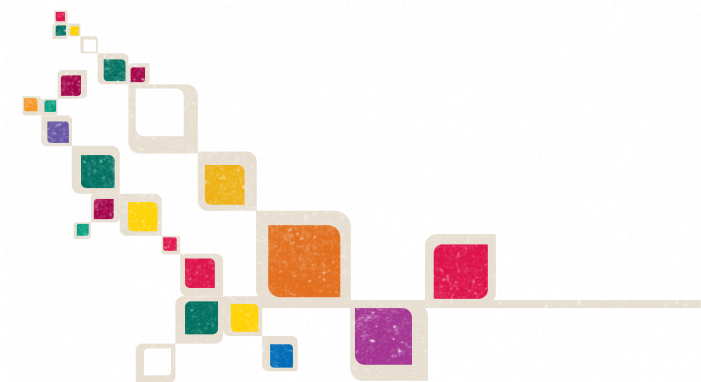
This paper provides the General Purposes and Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

Members of the General Purposes and Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website [www.grantthornton.co.uk](http://www.grantthornton.co.uk), where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications:

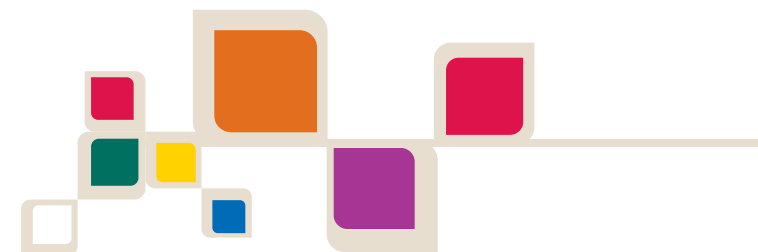
- CFO Insights – reviewing council's 2015/16 spend (December 2016); <http://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/insights/cfo-insights-reviewing-councils-201516-spend/>
- Fraud risk, 'adequate procedures', and local authorities (December 2016); <http://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/insights/fraud-risk-adequate-procedures-and-local-authorities/>
- New laws to prevent fraud may affect the public sector (November 2016); <http://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/insights/new-laws-to-prevent-fraud-may-affect-the-public-sector/>
- Brexit: local government – transitioning successfully (December 2016) <http://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/insights/brexit-local-government--transitioning-successfully/>

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either your Engagement Lead or Engagement Manager.

The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect your business or any weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. 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.



# Progress at June 2017



2016/17 work	Planned Date	Complete?	Comments
<b>Fee Letter</b> We are required to issue a 'Planned fee letter for 2017/18' by the end of April 2017	April 2017	Yes.	This was provided to your Executive Director of Resources and S151 Officer on 27 April 2017.
<b>Accounts Audit Plan</b> We are required to issue a detailed accounts audit plan setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the your 2015-16 financial statements.  We also inform you of any subsequent changes to our audit approach.	March 2017	Yes	This was presented to the General Purposes and Audit Committee on 22 March 2017.
<b>Early closedown and final accounts audit</b> We have been working with your finance team to deliver early closedown of the accounts and earlier completion of the audit. This has involved a number of actions including bringing forward your closedown timetables and increasing the amount of early audit testing undertaken throughout the year. This reflects the changes in legislation that require councils to prepare a set of accounts by the end of May and the audit to be delivered by the end of July, starting from 2018.  A draft set of financial statements is expected to be provided to us on 19 June 2017, and our audit will commence after that date. This is later than planned, and we will continue to work with the finance team in 2017/18 to support the delivery of early closedown.  The accounts will be signed off following the General Purposes and Audit Committee on 20 September 2017.	Field work – June – August 2017  Sign-off – September 2017	In progress	In order to deliver an efficient audit and deliver to the July audit sign off deadline in 2018, it will be critical final financial statements are presented for audit at the end of May, alongside a complete set of requested working papers.  We will continue to work in partnership with the finance team in 2017/18 to improve the early closedown process ahead of the formal implementation of the legislation.



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