

3 October 2012

Members
Central Bedfordshire Council
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Dear Member

Central Bedfordshire Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Financial statements

On 24th September 2012 I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Audit Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements. I will not replicate those findings in this letter.

Following the Audit Committee on 24th September 2012 I:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts;
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources;
- certified completion of the audit.

Grant claims and returns

I have completed my audit of grants claims and returns with the exception of the Teachers Pensions and Housing and Council Tax Benefits returns. I will certify the Teachers Pensions return by the 30 October 2012 and the Housing Benefits return by 30 November 2012. In addition, the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) have asked both the Council and I to carry out additional work on some of these issues I reported on the 2010/11 Housing Benefit claim so that they can quantify the error or to claw back the benefit paid. I expect this work to be complete by 30 October 2012.

Closing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer. While this has been another challenging year for the Authority I wish to thank the finance staff for their positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I also wish to thank senior management and the Audit Committee for their support and co-operation during the audit.

This is my final Annual Audit Letter as District Auditor, as the Authority will have a new appointed auditor for 2012/13 following the outcome of the Audit Commission procurement exercise to outsource the work of the Audit Commission's Audit Practice. I should like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Authority and their staff for the professional approach to the audit during the time that I have been the appointed auditor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul King'.

Paul King
District Auditor