

# London Borough of Havering

Year ending 31 March 2017

Audit Plan

February 2017

Ernst & Young LLP



**EY**

Building a better  
working world



Ernst & Young LLP  
400 Capability Green  
Luton LU1 3LU

Tel: + 44 20 7951 2000  
Fax: + 44 20 7951 1345  
ey.com

Audit Committee  
London Borough of Havering  
Town Hall  
Main Road  
Romford RM1 3BB

15 February 2017

Dear Committee Members

## Audit Plan

We are pleased to attach our Audit Plan which sets out how we intend to carry out our responsibilities as auditor. Its purpose is to provide the Audit Committee with a basis to review our proposed audit approach and scope for the 2016/17 audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, the Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd, auditing standards and other professional requirements. It is also to ensure that our audit is aligned with the Committee's service expectations.

This plan summarises our initial assessment of the key risks driving the development of an effective audit for the Council and outlines our planned audit strategy in response to those risks.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this Audit Plan with you on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and to understand whether there are other matters which you consider may influence our audit.

Yours faithfully

Debbie Hanson  
*For and behalf of Ernst & Young LLP*  
Enc

## Contents

1. Overview .....	1
2. Financial statement risks.....	3
3. Value for money risks .....	6
4. Our audit process and strategy .....	8
5. Independence .....	12
Appendix A Fees .....	14
Appendix B UK required communications with those charged with governance .....	15
Appendix C Detailed scopes.....	17

In April 2015 Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) issued "Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies". It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the PSAA website ([www.psaa.co.uk](http://www.psaa.co.uk)).

The Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas.

The 'Terms of Appointment from 1 April 2015' issued by PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This Audit Plan is prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities. It is addressed to the Audit Committee, and is prepared for the sole use of the audited body. We, as appointed auditor, take no responsibility to any third party.

Our Complaints Procedure - If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, you may take the issue up with your usual partner or director contact. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Steve Varley, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute. We can provide further information on how you may contact our professional institute.

# 1. Overview

This Audit Plan covers the work that we plan to perform to provide you with:

- ▶ Our audit opinion on whether the financial statements of the London Borough of Havering give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 2017 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ▶ Our conclusion on the Council arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness;

We will also review and report to the National Audit Office (NAO), to the extent and in the form required by them, on the Council's Whole of Government Accounts return.

Our audit will also include the mandatory procedures that we are required to perform in accordance with applicable laws and auditing standards.

When planning the audit we take into account several key inputs:

- ▶ Strategic, operational and financial risks relevant to the financial statements;
- ▶ Developments in financial reporting and auditing standards;
- ▶ The quality of systems and processes;
- ▶ Changes in the business and regulatory environment; and,
- ▶ Management's views on all of the above.

By considering these inputs, our audit is focused on the areas that matter and our feedback is more likely to be relevant to the Council.

## Changes in our audit scope

The London Borough of Havering will prepare Group Accounts for the first time in 2016/17, consolidating the transactions and balances of its wholly owned subsidiary company, Mercury Land Holdings.

We are currently assessing the significance of the component entity to the Group. Our planned involvement in the work of Mazars, as auditors to Mercury Land Holdings, will depend on this assessment. Appendix C provides an overview as to the nature of our planned involvement.

We will provide an update to the Audit Committee on the results of our work in this area in our report to those charged with governance scheduled for delivery in September 2017.

## 2. Financial statement risks

We outline below our current assessment of the financial statement risks facing the Council, identified through our knowledge of the Council's operations and discussion with those charged with governance and officers.

At our meeting, we will seek to validate these with you.

Significant risks (including fraud risks)	Our audit approach
<b>Risk of fraud in revenue recognition</b>	
<p>Under ISA240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper recognition of revenue.</p> <p>In the public sector, this requirement is modified by Practice Note 10, issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition.</p> <p>For local authorities, the potential for the incorrect classification of revenue spend as capital is a particular area where there is a risk of fraud in revenue recognition.</p>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Review capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment to ensure it meets the relevant accounting requirements to be capitalised.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk of management override</b>	
<p>As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.</p>	<p>Our approach will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Testing the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements</li> <li>▶ Reviewing accounting estimates for evidence of management bias, and</li> <li>▶ Evaluating the business rationale for significant unusual transactions</li> </ul>
<b>Other financial statement risks</b>	
<b>Group Accounts</b>	
<p>The Council set up a wholly owned subsidiary company, Mercury Land Holdings, in October 2015. The Council will prepare group accounts for the first time in 2016/17 in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (Code of Practice). We consider there to be an increased risk that the financial statements do not meet the group accounting requirements defined by the Code.</p>	<p>We test whether the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Adopted and correctly applied accounting policies that comply with the requirements of the Code.</li> <li>▶ Correctly consolidated transactions and balances relating to Mercury Land Holdings into the Authority's group financial statements.</li> <li>▶ Made all appropriate disclosures in accordance with adopted accounting policies and requirements of the Code.</li> </ul> <p>We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We will therefore instruct the auditor of Mercury Land Holdings as part of our audit procedures. The nature of our involvement in that work will depend upon our assessment of the significance of Mercury Land Holdings to the Group. Further details are provided in Appendix C.</p>

CIPFA Code Changes	
<p>Amendments have been made to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 (the Code) this year changing the way the financial statements are presented.</p> <p>The new reporting requirements impact the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS), and include the introduction of the new 'Expenditure and Funding Analysis' note as a result of the 'Telling the Story' review of the presentation of local authority financial statements.</p> <p>The Code no longer requires statements or notes to be prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP). Instead the Code requires that the service analysis is based on the organisational structure under which the authority operates. We expect this to show the Council's segmental analysis.</p> <p>This change in the Code will require a new structure for the primary statements, new notes and a full retrospective restatement of impacted primary statements. The restatement of the 2015/16 comparatives will require audit review, which could potentially incur additional costs, depending on the complexity and manner in which the changes are made.</p>	<p>Our Approach will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Review of the expenditure and funding analysis, CIES and new notes to ensure disclosures are in line with the code</li> <li>▶ Review of the analysis of how these figures are derived, how the ledger system has been re-mapped to reflect the Council's organisational structure and how overheads are apportioned across the service areas reported.</li> <li>▶ Agreement of restated comparative figures back to the Council's segmental analysis and supporting working papers.</li> </ul>
<p>Highways Network Assets deferral to 2017/18</p> <p>CIPFA have issued an update to the 2016/17 Accounting Code. The removal of all references to the valuation and accounting requirements for the Highways Network Asset due to the deferral of its implementation announced in December 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ We will continue to consider the preparedness of the Council during 2016/17 and review any disclosures associated with this in the 2016/17 financial statements.</li> </ul>

## 2.1 Responsibilities in respect of fraud and error

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that management has the primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud. It is important that management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, has a culture of ethical behaviour and a strong control environment that both deters and prevents fraud.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatements whether caused by error or fraud. As auditors, we approach each engagement with a questioning mind that accepts the possibility that a material misstatement due to fraud could occur, and design the appropriate procedures to consider such risk.

Based on the requirements of auditing standards our approach will focus on:

- ▶ Identifying fraud risks during the planning stages;
- ▶ Enquiry of management about risks of fraud and the controls to address those risks;
- ▶ Understanding the oversight given by those charged with governance of management's processes over fraud;
- ▶ Consideration of the effectiveness of management's controls designed to address the risk of fraud;

- ▶ Determining an appropriate strategy to address any identified risks of fraud, and,
- ▶ Performing mandatory procedures regardless of specifically identified risks.



### 3. Value for money risks

We are required to consider whether the Council has put in place ‘proper arrangements’ to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources. For 2016-17 this is based on the overall evaluation criterion:

*“In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people”*

Proper arrangements are defined by statutory guidance issued by the National Audit Office. They comprise your arrangements to:

- ▶ Take informed decisions;
- ▶ Deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and
- ▶ Work with partners and other third parties.

In considering your proper arrangements, we will draw on the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework for local government to ensure that our assessment is made against a framework that you are already required to have in place and to report on through documents such as your annual governance statement.

We are only required to determine whether there are any risks that we consider significant, which the Code of Audit Practice which defines as:

*“A matter is significant if, in the auditor’s professional view, it is reasonable to conclude that the matter would be of interest to the audited body or the wider public”*

Our risk assessment supports the planning of sufficient work to enable us to deliver a safe conclusion on arrangements to secure value for money and enables us to determine the nature and extent of further work that may be required. If we do not identify any significant risks there is no requirement to carry out further work.

Our risk assessment has therefore considered both the potential financial impact of the issues we have identified, and also the likelihood that the issue will be of interest to local taxpayers, the Government and other stakeholders. This has resulted in the following significant risk which we view as relevant to our value for money conclusion. We will revisit the assessment throughout the audit process.

Significant value for money risks	Our audit approach
<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>The impact of continuing reductions in funding from central government, together with significant cost pressures in areas such as Adult and Children’s services, is particularly challenging for the Council. With restrictions on annual Council Tax increases, the Council’s medium-term financial strategy identifies the need to identify and deliver significant savings from 2017/18 and future years.</p> <p>Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) give councils and local NHS organisations the opportunity to work together to improve the way health and social care is designed and delivered.</p> <p>The North East London STP brings together the challenges and opportunities that face NHS and care services in North East London as they work together to</p>	<p>Our approach will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing an understanding of how the Council identifies and quality assures its savings plans.</li> <li>▶ Reviewing the detail of key schemes for 2016/17 and 2017/18.</li> <li>▶ Assessing the linkage between the capital programme and revenue budgeting.</li> <li>▶ The arrangements at the Council, working with its STP partners, during 2016/17 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Defining the governance arrangements to support STP delivery.</li> <li>○ Engaging in the STP process.</li> <li>○ Working with the STP partners to progress</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

improve health and wellbeing within the funds available.

While the Council has a history of being well managed and aware of issues impacting the Borough area as a whole, we consider there is a significant risk in relation to the Council's ability to deal with the challenging health and social care environment and deliver the savings required.

---

the STP from high level planning to a more detailed delivery model.

- o Demonstrating how the STP will contribute to the financial sustainability of the Council in the context of the health economy.

## 4. Our audit process and strategy

### 4.1 Objective and scope of our audit

Under the Code of Audit Practice our principal objectives are to review and report on the Council's:

- ▶ Financial statements.
- ▶ Arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources to the extent required by the relevant legislation and the requirements of the Code.

We issue an audit report that covers:

#### 1. Financial statement audit

Our objective is to form an opinion on the financial statements under International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you by exception in respect of your governance statement and other accompanying material as required, in accordance with relevant guidance prepared by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Alongside our audit report, we also:

- ▶ Review and report to the NAO on the Whole of Government Accounts return to the extent and in the form they require; and
- ▶ Give a separate opinion on the part of the Council's financial statements that relates to the accounts of the pension fund;

#### 2. Arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money)

We are required to consider whether the Council has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources.

### 4.2 Audit process overview

#### Processes

Our intention is to undertake a fully substantive audit. We believe this to be the most efficient approach to gaining assurance over the transactions and balances reported in the Council's financial statements. We will also review the overall control environment established by the Council, and the evidence we obtain from this review will form the basis of our review of the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

#### Analytics

We will use our computer-based analytics tools to enable us to capture whole populations of your financial data, in particular payroll and journal entries. We have requested data at Month 9 to support our early testing and will do so again at year end. These tools:

- ▶ Help identify specific exceptions and anomalies which can then be subject to more traditional substantive audit tests.

- ▶ Give greater likelihood of identifying errors than random sampling techniques.

### Internal audit

We will review internal audit plans and the results of their work. We will reflect the findings from these reports, together with reports from any other work completed in the year, in our detailed audit plan, where we raise issues that could have an impact on the year-end financial statements

### Use of specialists

When auditing key judgements, we are often required to rely on the input and advice provided by specialists who have qualifications and expertise not possessed by the core audit team. The areas where either EY or third party specialists provide input for the current year audit are:

Area	Specialists
Pensions	Hymans Robertson (the Council's Actuary) PwC review of the work of local government actuaries (including Hymans Robertson), commissioned by the NAO EY pensions team review of the PwC report
Property Valuation	Wilks Head and Eve (the Council's property valuers)
Financial instrument fair values	Arlingclose (the Council's treasury advisors)

In accordance with Auditing Standards, we will evaluate each specialist's professional competence and objectivity, considering their qualifications, experience and available resources, together with the independence of the individuals performing the work.

We also consider the work performed by the specialist in light of our knowledge of the Council's environment and processes and our assessment of audit risk in the particular area. For example, we would typically perform the following procedures:

- ▶ Analyse source data and make inquiries as to the procedures used by the expert to establish whether the source data is relevant and reliable;
- ▶ Assess the reasonableness of the assumptions and methods used;
- ▶ Consider the appropriateness of the timing of when the specialist carried out the work; and
- ▶ Assess whether the substance of the specialist's findings are properly reflected in the financial statements.

## 4.3 Mandatory audit procedures required by auditing standards and the Code

As well as the financial statement risks (section two) and value for money risks (section three), we must perform other procedures as required by auditing, ethical and independence standards, the Code and other regulations. We outline below the procedures we will undertake during the course of our audit.

### Procedures required by standards

- ▶ Addressing the risk of fraud and error;
- ▶ Significant disclosures included in the financial statements;

- ▶ Entity-wide controls;
- ▶ Reading other information contained in the financial statements and reporting whether it is inconsistent with our understanding and the financial statements;
- ▶ Auditor independence.

#### Procedures required by the Code

- ▶ Reviewing, and reporting on as appropriate, other information published with the financial statements, including the Annual Governance Statement;
- ▶ Reviewing and reporting on the Whole of Government Accounts return, in line with the instructions issued by the NAO

Finally, we are also required to discharge our statutory duties and responsibilities as established by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Code of Audit Practice.

## 4.4 Materiality

For the purposes of determining whether the financial statements are free from material error, we define materiality as the magnitude of an omission or misstatement that, individually or in aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the users of the financial statements. Our evaluation requires professional judgement and so takes into account qualitative as well as quantitative considerations implied in the definition.

We have determined that overall materiality for the financial statements of the Council is £11 million. This is calculated on the basis of 2% of the Council's gross expenditure. We will communicate uncorrected audit misstatements greater than £552,000 to you.

The amount we consider material at the end of the audit may differ from our initial determination. At this stage, however, it is not feasible to anticipate all the circumstances that might ultimately influence our judgement. At the end of the audit we will form our final opinion by reference to all matters that could be significant to users of the financial statements, including the total effect of any audit misstatements, and our evaluation of materiality at that date.

## 4.5 How materiality is applied to the component locations

We determine component materiality as a percentage of Group materiality based on risk and relative size to the Group. We are currently assessing the risk and relative size of Mercury Land Holdings to the Group. We will confirm component materiality in our report to those charged with governance scheduled for delivery in September 2017.

## 4.6 Fees

The duty to prescribe fees is a statutory function delegated to Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. PSAA has published a scale fee for all relevant bodies. This is defined as the fee required by auditors to meet statutory responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in accordance with the NAO Code. The indicative fee scale for the audit of the London Borough of Havering is £151,844.

## 4.7 Your audit team

The engagement team is led by Debbie Hanson. Debbie has significant local government experience, and is the engagement lead for a number of EY's government and public sector audits across the east of England. Debbie is supported by Stephen Bladen who is

responsible for the day-to-day direction of audit work and is the key point of contact for the Council's finance team.

## 4.8 Timetable of communication, deliverables and insights

We have set out below a timetable showing the key stages of the audit, including the value for money work and the Whole of Government Accounts. The timetable includes the deliverables we have agreed to provide to the Council through the Audit Committee's cycle in 2016/17. These dates are determined to ensure our alignment with PSAA's rolling calendar of deadlines.

From time to time matters may arise that require immediate communication with the Audit Committee and we will discuss them with the Chair as appropriate.

Following the conclusion of our audit we will prepare an Annual Audit Letter to communicate the key issues arising from our work to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public.

Audit phase	Timetable	Audit Committee timetable	Deliverables
High level planning	April 2016		Audit Fee Letter
Risk assessment, setting of scopes, and testing routine processes and controls	January – February 2017	March 2017	Audit Plan
Early substantive testing	March – April 2017	June 2017	Progress report (we will report by exception if there are any significant matters arising at this stage of our audit).
Year-end audit	July – August 2017		
Completion of audit	September 2017	September 2017	Report to those charged with governance via the Audit Results Report  Audit report (including our opinion on the financial statements and overall value for money conclusion).  Audit completion certificate  Reporting to the NAO on the Whole of Government Accounts return.
Conclusion of reporting	October 2017	November / December 2017	Annual Audit Letter

In addition to the above formal reporting and deliverables we will seek to provide practical business insights and updates on regulatory matters.

## 5. Independence

### 5.1 Introduction

The APB Ethical Standards and ISA (UK and Ireland) 260 'Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance', requires us to communicate with you on a timely basis on all significant facts and matters that bear on our independence and objectivity. The Ethical Standards, as revised in December 2010, require that we do this formally both at the planning stage and at the conclusion of the audit, as well as during the audit if appropriate. The aim of these communications is to ensure full and fair disclosure by us to those charged with your governance on matters in which you have an interest.

Required communications	
Planning stage	Final stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The principal threats, if any, to objectivity and independence identified by EY including consideration of all relationships between you, your affiliates and directors and us;</li> <li>▶ The safeguards adopted and the reasons why they are considered to be effective, including any Engagement Quality Review;</li> <li>▶ The overall assessment of threats and safeguards;</li> <li>▶ Information about the general policies and process within EY to maintain objectivity and independence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that bear on our objectivity and independence, the threats to our independence that these create, any safeguards that we have put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable our objectivity and independence to be assessed;</li> <li>▶ Details of non-audit services provided and the fees charged in relation thereto;</li> <li>▶ Written confirmation that we are independent;</li> <li>▶ Details of any inconsistencies between APB Ethical Standards, the PSAA Terms of Appointment and your policy for the supply of non-audit services by EY and any apparent breach of that policy; and</li> <li>▶ An opportunity to discuss auditor independence issues.</li> </ul>

During the course of the audit we must also communicate with you whenever any significant judgements are made about threats to objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of our safeguards, for example when accepting an engagement to provide non-audit services.

We also provide information on any contingent fee arrangements, the amounts of any future contracted services, and details of any written proposal to provide non-audit services.

We ensure that the total amount of fees that EY and our network firms have charged to you and your affiliates for the provision of services during the reporting period are disclosed, analysed in appropriate categories.

### 5.2 Relationships, services and related threats and safeguards

We highlight the following significant facts and matters that may be reasonably considered to bear upon our objectivity and independence, including any principal threats. However we have adopted the safeguards below to mitigate these threats along with the reasons why they are considered to be effective.

#### *Self-interest threats*

A self-interest threat arises when EY has financial or other interests in your entity. Examples include where we have an investment in your entity; where we receive significant fees in respect of non-audit services; where we need to recover long outstanding fees; or where we enter into a business relationship with the Council.

At the time of writing, there are no long outstanding fees.

We believe that it is appropriate for us to undertake permissible non-audit services on behalf of the Council and, where we do, we will comply with the policies that the Council has approved and that are in compliance with PSAA Terms of Appointment.

A self-interest threat may also arise if members of our audit engagement team have objectives or are rewarded in relation to sales of non-audit services to the Council. We confirm that no member of our audit engagement team, including those from other service lines, is in this position, in compliance with Ethical Standard 4.

There are no other self-interest threats at the date of this report.

#### *Self-review threats*

Self-review threats arise when the results of a non-audit service performed by EY or others within the EY network are reflected in the amounts included or disclosed in the financial statements.

There are no other self-review threats at the date of this report.

#### *Management threats*

Partners and employees of EY are prohibited from taking decisions on behalf of management of your entity. Management threats may also arise during the provision of a non-audit service where management is required to make judgements or decisions based on that work.

There are no management threats at the date of this report.

#### *Other threats*

Other threats, such as advocacy, familiarity or intimidation, may arise.

There are no other threats at the date of this report.

#### *Overall Assessment*

Overall we consider that the adopted safeguards appropriately mitigate the principal threats identified, and we therefore confirm that EY is independent and the objectivity and independence of Debbie Hanson, the audit engagement Director and the audit engagement team have not been compromised.

### 5.3 Other required communications

EY has policies and procedures that instil professional values as part of firm culture and ensure that the highest standards of objectivity, independence and integrity are maintained.

Details of the key policies and processes within EY for maintaining objectivity and independence can be found in our annual Transparency Report, which the firm is required to publish by law. The most recent version of this report is for the year ended June 2016 and can be found here:

<http://www.ey.com/uk/en/about-us/ey-uk-transparency-report-2016>



## Appendix A Fees

A breakdown of our agreed fee is shown below.

	Planned Fee 2016/17 £	Scale fee 2016/17 £	Outturn fee 2015/16 £
Opinion Audit and VFM Conclusion	To be confirmed <sup>1</sup>	151,844	151,844
Total Audit Fee – Code work	To be confirmed	151,844	151,844
Certification of claims and returns <sup>2</sup>	16,178	16,178	15,080

*All fees exclude VAT.*

<sup>1</sup> As noted elsewhere within our audit plan, the scope of our audit is likely to include an opinion on the group accounts prepared by the Council, and involvement in the work of the auditors for Mercury Land Holdings. This is likely to attract a variation to the scale fee set by PSAA. Once we have completed our planning work in relation to this, we will discuss this with the Council.

<sup>2</sup>Our fee for the certification of grant claims is based on the indicative scale fee set by the PSAA.

The agreed fee presented above is based on the following assumptions:

- ▶ Officers meeting the agreed timetable of deliverables;
- ▶ Our accounts opinion and value for money conclusion being unqualified;
- ▶ Appropriate quality of documentation is provided by the Council; and
- ▶ The Council has an effective control environment.

If any of the above assumptions prove to be unfounded, we will seek a variation to the agreed fee. This will be discussed with the Council in advance.

Fees for the auditor's consideration of correspondence from the public and formal objections will be charged in addition to the scale fee.

## Appendix B UK required communications with those charged with governance

There are certain communications that we must provide to the Audit Committee. These are detailed here:

Required communication	Reference
Planning and audit approach Communication of the planned scope and timing of the audit including any limitations.	▶ Audit Plan
Significant findings from the audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Our view about the significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures</li> <li>▶ Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit</li> <li>▶ Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed with management</li> <li>▶ Written representations that we are seeking</li> <li>▶ Expected modifications to the audit report</li> <li>▶ Other matters if any, significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report
Misstatements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Uncorrected misstatements and their effect on our audit opinion</li> <li>▶ The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods</li> <li>▶ A request that any uncorrected misstatement be corrected</li> <li>▶ In writing, corrected misstatements that are significant</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report
Fraud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enquiries of the Audit Committee to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity</li> <li>▶ Any fraud that we have identified or information we have obtained that indicates that a fraud may exist</li> <li>▶ A discussion of any other matters related to fraud</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report
Related parties <p>Significant matters arising during the audit in connection with the entity's related parties including, when applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Non-disclosure by management</li> <li>▶ Inappropriate authorisation and approval of transactions</li> <li>▶ Disagreement over disclosures</li> <li>▶ Non-compliance with laws and regulations</li> <li>▶ Difficulty in identifying the party that ultimately controls the entity</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report
External confirmations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Management's refusal for us to request confirmations</li> <li>▶ Inability to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from other procedures</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report
Consideration of laws and regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit findings regarding non-compliance where the non-compliance is material and believed to be intentional. This communication is subject to compliance with legislation on tipping off</li> <li>▶ Enquiry of the Audit Committee into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements and that the Audit Committee may be aware of</li> </ul>	▶ Audit Results Report

Required communication	Reference
<p>Independence</p> <p>Communication of all significant facts and matters that bear on EY's objectivity and independence</p> <p>Communication of key elements of the audit engagement director's consideration of independence and objectivity such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The principal threats</li> <li>▶ Safeguards adopted and their effectiveness</li> <li>▶ An overall assessment of threats and safeguards</li> <li>▶ Information about the general policies and process within the firm to maintain objectivity and independence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit Plan</li> <li>▶ Audit Results Report</li> </ul>
<p>Going concern</p> <p>Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty</li> <li>▶ Whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements</li> <li>▶ The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit Results Report</li> </ul>
<p>Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit Results Report</li> </ul>
<p>Fee Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Breakdown of fee information at the agreement of the initial audit plan</li> <li>▶ Breakdown of fee information at the completion of the audit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit Plan</li> <li>▶ Audit Results Report</li> <li>▶ Annual Audit Letter if considered necessary</li> </ul>
<p>Group audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ An overview of the type of work to be performed on the financial information of the components</li> <li>▶ An overview of the nature of the group audit team's planned involvement in the work to be performed by the component auditors on the financial information of significant components</li> <li>▶ Instances where the group audit team's evaluation of the work of a component auditor gave rise to a concern about the quality of that auditor's work</li> <li>▶ Any limitations on the group audit, for example, where the group engagement team's access to information may have been restricted</li> <li>▶ Fraud or suspected fraud involving group management, component management, employees who have significant roles in group-wide controls or others where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement of the group financial statements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit Plan</li> <li>▶ Audit Results Report</li> </ul>
<p>Certification work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Summary of certification work undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Certification Report</li> <li>▶ Annual Audit Letter if considered necessary</li> </ul>

## Appendix C Detailed scopes

Our objective is to form an opinion on the group's consolidated financial statements under International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We set audit scopes for each reporting unit which together enable us to form an opinion on the group accounts. We take into account the size, risk profile, changes in the business environment and other factors when assessing the level of work to be performed at each reporting unit.

ISA 600 (UK and Ireland) requires that we provide you with an overview of the nature of our planned involvement in the work to be performed by the auditors of significant components. The London Borough of Havering will prepare Group Accounts for the first time in 2016/17. The nature of our involvement in the work of component auditors will depend on our assessment of the significance of Mercury Land Holdings, the Council's wholly owned subsidiary, to the Group.

We will provide you with further details on the nature of our involvement in the work of the Mazars as auditor to Mercury Land Holdings in our report to those charged with governance scheduled for delivery in September 2017.

We have set out an overview of the possible options for our involvement in the work of Mazars below.

- ▶ Full scope: locations deemed significant based on size and those with significant risk factors are subject to a full scope audit, covering all significant accounts and processes using materiality levels assigned by the Group audit team for the purposes of the consolidated audit. Procedures are full-scope in nature, but may not be sufficient to issue a stand-alone audit opinion on the local statutory financial statements (as materiality thresholds support to the consolidated audit).
- ▶ Specific scope: locations where only specific procedures are performed by the local audit team, based upon procedures, accounts or assertions identified by the Group audit team.
- ▶ Limited Scope: limited scope procedures primarily consist of enquiries of management and analytical review. On-site or desk top reviews may be performed, according to our assessment of risk.
- ▶ Other procedures: For those locations that we do not consider material to the Group financial statements in terms of size relative to the Group and risk, we perform other procedures to confirm that there is no risk of material misstatement within those locations.

EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

Ernst & Young LLP

© Ernst & Young LLP. Published in the UK.  
All Rights Reserved.

The UK firm Ernst & Young LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC300001 and is a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF.

[ey.com](https://www.ey.com)