

# Audit Progress Report

## Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

September 2022



# 01

Section 01:  
**Audit Progress**

# Audit Progress

## Purpose of this report

This report provides the Audit and Governance Committee with an update on progress in delivering our responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

## Audit opinion

We have substantially completed our audit in respect of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 but there are some significant matters that remain outstanding including:

- Detailed testing of property, plant and equipment valuations;
- Accounting for infrastructure which is subject to national discussion; and
- Assurances from the pension fund auditor.

We now expect to issue our Audit Completion Report to the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.

## Value for Money

We are required to consider whether the Council have made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out and sets out the reporting criteria that we are required to consider. The reporting criteria are:

- **Financial sustainability** - How the Council plan and manage their resources to ensure they can continue to deliver services
- **Governance** - How the Council ensures that they make informed decisions and properly manages its risks
- **Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the Council use information about their costs and performance to improve the way they manage and deliver services

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work to understand the arrangements that the Council have in place under each of the reporting criteria and we identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements. Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest significant weaknesses in arrangements exist.

We will report the outcome of our work on the Council's VFM arrangements in our commentary on those arrangements within the Auditor's Annual Report. We plan to present the Auditor's Annual Report later in the year.

To date, we have not identified and risks of significant weaknesses or recommendations that need to be made.

## Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Council and to consider any objection made to the accounts. No such questions or objections have been received.

## Gavin Barker, Director – Public and Social Sector

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