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Please contact us in Welsh or English.

Cysylltwch â ni'n Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg.

Councillor Huw David
The Leader
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Reference: 286A2017-18

Date issued: 30 November 2017

Dear Councillor Davies

Annual Audit Letter – Bridgend County Borough Council 2016-17

This letter summarises the key messages arising from my statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and my reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice.

The Council complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources

It is the Council's responsibility to:

- put systems of internal control in place to ensure the regularity and lawfulness of transactions and to ensure that its assets are secure;
- maintain proper accounting records;
- prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with relevant requirements; and
- establish and keep under review appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires me to:

- provide an audit opinion on the accounting statements;
- review the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and
- issue a certificate confirming that I have completed the audit of the accounts.

Local authorities in Wales prepare their accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. This Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards.

On 29 September 2017 I issued an unqualified audit opinion on the 2016-17 accounting statements confirming they present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position and transactions. My report is contained within the Statement of Accounts. The key matters arising from the accounts audit were reported to the members of the Council's Audit Committee on 28 September 2017 through my 'Audit of Financial Statements Report'.

In this report I confirmed that the quality of the draft accounts and associated records presented for audit were generally good, and an improvement on the previous year.

I am satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

My consideration of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness has been based on the audit work undertaken on the accounts, as well as placing reliance on the work completed under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

I am satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, although in September 2017 I set out in my 'Annual Improvement Report'¹ the areas where improvements could be made.

On 29 September 2017 I issued a certificate confirming that the audit was completed.

I expect the financial audit fee to be as estimated in the Audit Plan.

Yours sincerely



Derwyn Owen

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

cc. Darren Mephram, Chief Executive Officer
Randal Hemingway, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer

¹ Wales Audit Office, **Bridgend County Borough Council Annual Improvement Report 2016-17**, September 2017