



# Audit Committee Update for North Somerset Council

---

**Year ended 31 March 2014**

14 May 2014

**Peter Barber**

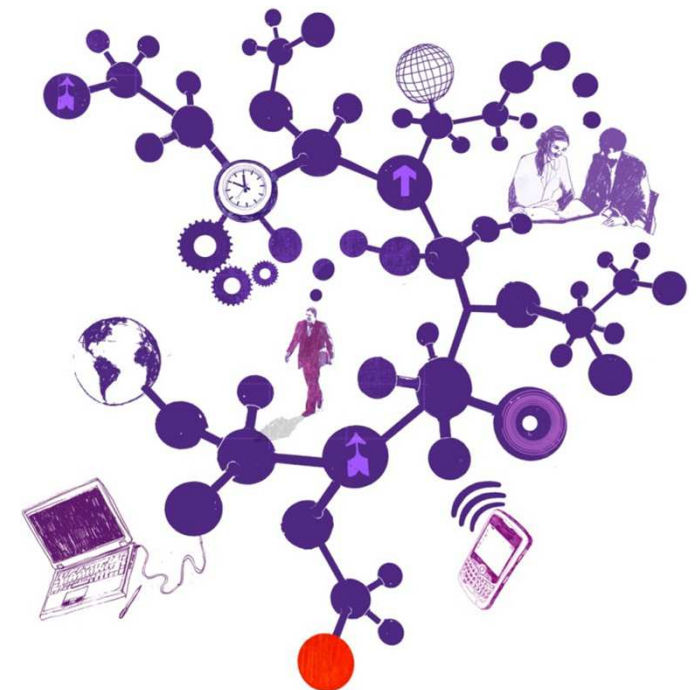
Engagement Lead  
T 0117 305 7897  
E [peter.a.barber@uk.gt.com](mailto:peter.a.barber@uk.gt.com)

**Karen Beckingham**  
Manager

T 0117 305 7895  
E [karen.a.beckingham@uk.gt.com](mailto:karen.a.beckingham@uk.gt.com)

**Steve Ballard**  
Executive

T 0117 305 7898  
E [steve.j.ballard@uk.gt.com](mailto:steve.j.ballard@uk.gt.com)



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.

---

# Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction	4
Progress at 14 May 2014	5

---

# Introduction

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

Members of the Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website [www.grant-thornton.co.uk](http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk), where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Our recent publications include:

- LG Governance Review – Working in Tandem
- A guide to local authority accounts
- Welfare Reform 2014
- Pensions Governance Review
- Alternative Delivery Models.

We have also published thought leadership flyers on the following topics and circulated them to your officers.

- Top 5 Local Government Issues
- Use of assets to support regeneration
- Decluttering accounts
- Approving the minimum revenue provision

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 Audit Manager.

Peter Barber	Engagement Lead	T 0117 305 7897	M 07880 456 122	E <a href="mailto:peter.a.barber@uk.gt.com">peter.a.barber@uk.gt.com</a>
Karen Beckingham	Engagement Manager	T 0117 305 7895	M 07880 456 124	E <a href="mailto:karen.a.beckingham@uk.gt.com">karen.a.beckingham@uk.gt.com</a>

## Progress at 14 May 2014

Work	Planned date	Complete?	Comments
<p><b>2013-14 Accounts Audit Plan</b> We are required to issue a detailed accounts audit plan to the Council setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Council's 2013-14 financial statements.</p>	<p><b>Audit Plan</b> April 2014</p>	Yes	This is included on the Audit Committee agenda.
<p><b>Interim accounts audit</b> Our interim fieldwork visit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updating our review of the Council's control environment</li> <li>• updating our understanding of financial systems</li> <li>• review of Internal Audit reports on core financial systems</li> <li>• early work on emerging accounting issues</li> <li>• early substantive testing</li> <li>• proposed Value for Money conclusion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interim</b> Feb – April 2014</p>	Yes	Our interim work is complete. The results of this work is reported in the Audit Plan.
<p><b>2013-14 final accounts audit</b> Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audit of the 2013-14 financial statements</li> <li>• proposed opinion on the Council's accounts</li> <li>• proposed Value for Money conclusion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Accounts</b> July-Sept 2014</p> <p><b>VFM</b> Feb-Sept 2014</p>	No	We have carried out an initial risk assessment for value for money and will complete our detailed review in the period July – September.

---

## Progress at 14 May 2014

Work	Planned date	Complete?	Comments
<p><b>Certification Work</b> Various grant-paying bodies require external certification of claims for grant or subsidy and returns of financial information.</p> <p>As the Council's appointed external auditor, we undertake grant certification work acting as an agent of the Audit Commission.</p>	Sept-Dec 2014	No	



© 2013 Grant Thornton UK LLP. All rights reserved.

'Grant Thornton' refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires.

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions.

**[grant.thornton.co.uk](http://grant.thornton.co.uk)**