



Audit Completion Report

North East Derbyshire District Council – year ended 31 March 2025

November 2025

Members of the Audit Committee

North East Derbyshire District Council

2013 Mill Ln
Chesterfield
S42 6NG

13 November 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for North East Derbyshire District Council (“the Council”) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The purpose of this report is to summarise our audit findings and conclusions.

This report is intended solely for the Audit Committee for the purpose of communicating certain matters that, in our professional judgement, are relevant to your oversight of the financial reporting process. To the fullest extent permitted by law Forvis Mazars LLP accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability to any third party who purports to use or rely for any reason whatsoever on the report, its contents, conclusions, any exact, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification. Accordingly, any reliance placed on the report, its contents, conclusions, any extract, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification by any third party is entirely at their own risk.

We appreciate the courtesy and co-operation extended to us by the Council throughout our audit. We would be happy to discuss the contents of this report, or any other matters regarding our audit, with you in more detail.

Yours faithfully

Signed:  James Collins (New 13, 2025, 16:11:36 GMT)

James Collins

Forvis Mazars LLP

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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'PSAA Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. This document is to be regarded as confidential to North East Derbyshire District Council. It has been prepared for the sole use of Audit Committee as the appropriate sub-committee charged with governance. We do not accept any liability or responsibility to any other person in respect of the whole or part of its contents.

01

Executive Summary

Executive summary

Scope

We have been engaged to audit the financial statements of North East Derbyshire District Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are prepared in accordance with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ('ISAs'), relevant ethical and professional standards, and the terms of our engagement communicated in our engagement letter.

Audit status

Our audit procedures are now substantially complete for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Please refer to the '*Status of our audit*' section for a list of significant audit matters outstanding at the date of this report. We will provide an update to the Audit Committee on completion of those outstanding matters by way of a follow-up letter.

Areas of focus and audit approach, and significant findings

We have not made any changes to our initial risk assessment and planned audit approach that was communicated to the Audit Committee in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Significant control deficiencies

We did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control. Please refer to the '*Significant control deficiencies*' section.

The non-significant control observations that we have identified to date are set out in '*Appendix A: Internal control conclusions*'.

Audit misstatements

A summary of the adjusted and unadjusted misstatements above our reporting threshold we have identified to date is set out in the '*Summary of misstatements*' section.

Audit opinion

At the time of issuing this report and subject to the satisfactory conclusion of our remaining audit work, we anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, as set out in Appendix C..

Value for Money

We anticipate having no significant weaknesses in arrangements to report in relation to the arrangements that the Council has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Further details have been provided in the '*Value for Money*' section of this report.

Wider reporting 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 correspondence from electors has been received.

Reporting to the group auditor

We have not yet received group instructions from the National Audit Office in respect of our work on the Council 's WGA submission. We are unable to commence our work in this area until such instructions have been received.

Executive summary

Qualitative aspects of Council's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Council's accounting policies and disclosures and conclude that they comply with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, appropriately tailored to the Council's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Council on 20 June 2025 and were of a good quality.

Significant matters discussed with management

During our audit, we communicated the following significant matters to management:

- Ongoing preparations for Local Government Reorganisation and the effect on North East Derbyshire District Council.
- When assessing ROU asset valuation our internal valuer challenged the use of location factors applied by managements valuer. In particular that managements valuer had used a location factor for Derbyshire rather than a more specific location factor for North East Derbyshire. Managements valuer has explained why they believe the location factor used is appropriate. We have revisited all assets which include the use the location factor and confirmed that the difference between the location factor used by managements valuer and our internal valuer does not indicate a material difference in valuation.
- During the year, several housing assets was transferred from Assets Under Construction to Assets Held for Sale. The assets are held on the Balance Sheet at cost. In accordance with the CIPFA Code and IFRS 5, assets held for sale should be measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell at the date of classification. Management determined that the carrying value, cost of building the assets, is appropriate. Using other housing assets in the same estate valued by managements external valuer we have estimated the difference between cost and fair value is approximately £0.431m. We are satisfied that the judgement applied by management does not indicate a risk of material misstatement.

Significant difficulties during the audit

We have not encountered any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Other matters of significance

We encountered no significant difficulties during our audit and had no significant disagreements with management. There was effective co-operation and communication between Forvis Mazars, management, and



the Audit Committee during our audit. All requested information and explanations were provided to us.

Other matters we are required by ISA (UK) 260 *Communication with Those Charged with Governance* to communicate to you have been set out in Appendix E.





Status of the audit

Status of our audit

Our audit work is substantially complete and there are currently no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding matters set out below.

Audit Quality Control and Completion procedures Our audit work is undergoing final stages of review by the Engagement Lead and further quality and compliance checks.	
In addition, there are a small number of residual procedures to complete, including updating post balance sheet event considerations to the point of issuing the opinion and obtaining final management representations.	
VFM We are currently completing our fieldwork in this area and are on track to deliver our draft commentary to management by the 30 th November deadline.	

Status

	Likely to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements.
	Potential to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements.
	Not considered likely to result in a material adjustment or a change to disclosures in the financial statements.
	Work on value for money arrangements

Audit approach and risk summary

Audit approach and risk summary

Changes to our audit approach

There have been no changes to the audit approach we communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, issued in July 2025.

Materiality

Our provisional materiality at the planning stage of our audit was set at £1.908m for Group and £1.841m for the Council using a benchmark of 2% of gross operating expenditure for the Group and 1.9% of gross operating expenditure for the Council as per the Audit Strategy Memorandum.

There have been no changes to the materiality levels we communicated in the Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Group audit approach

There have also been no significant changes to the group audit approach we communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, issued in July 2025

Internal audit

No reliance has been placed on internal audit for the 2024/25 financial audit. Enquiries have been undertaken to aid our understanding of the overarching control environment of the council

Use of experts

Management makes use of experts in specific areas when preparing the Council's financial statements. We also use experts to assist us to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on specific items of account. No changes have occurred to those outlined in our ASM.

Item of account	Management's expert	Our expert
Defined benefit liability	Hymans Robertson LLP	National Audit Office's (NAO's) Consulting Actuary (PwC)
Property, plant and equipment and Investment Properties	Wilks, Head and Eve External Valuer (Non-dwellings)	We considered available market data including the National Audit Office's expert, Monatgu Evans Forvis Mazars Audit Valuations Team (Right of Use Asset)
	Barlow Property Consultancy External Valuer (Dwellings)	
Financial Instruments	Arlingclose Treasury Management Advisor	None identified as being required
Business Rates Appeals Valuation	Inform CPI Ltd	None identified as being required

Audit approach and risk summary

	Audit risk/ key area of judgement	Fraud risk	Judgement	Error	Substantive audit procedures	Tests of controls	Misstatement identified	Control recommendations	Conclusion	Page ref to finding
Significant risks	Management Override of Controls	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	No significant issues have been identified that need to be brought to the attention of members.	15
	Valuation of the LGPS Defined Benefit Pension	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	We have identified unadjusted misstatement as set out in section 06, our work obtained the assurances required and there are no further matters to report.	16
	Valuation of Property, Plant & Equipment (Land + Buildings) and Investment Property	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	No significant issues have been identified that need to be brought to the attention of members.	17
	Implementation of IFRS 16 - Leases	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	We identified an adjusted misstatement as set out in section 06, our work obtained the assurances required and there are no further matters to report.	18

Audit approach and risk summary

Overview of our group audit approach

You engaged us to audit the group financial statements of North East Derbyshire District Council. Based on our risk assessment and the financial information for the year ending 31 March 2025, we determined that certain components consolidated into the group financial statements should be subject to either a full scope audit or a specific scope audit, as set out in the table below.

Where we engaged component auditors as part of our group audit approach, we have specified the name and location of the component auditor below.

Component name	%	Location	Auditor	Scope	Changes to scope since planning?
North East Derbyshire District Council	86%	Chesterfield	Forvis Mazars LLP	Full Scope Audit	No
Rykneld Homes Limited	14%	Chesterfield	Crowe LLP	Full Scope Audit	No

Audit scope definitions

Full scope audit: an audit of the component’s financial information prepared for group reporting purposes using component performance materiality.

Audit of account balance(s), class(es) of transaction, and/ or disclosures(s): an audit of specific account balance(s), class(es) of transaction, and/ or disclosure(s) included in the component’s financial information prepared for group reporting purposes, using component performance materiality.

Group engagement team instructed engagement procedures: specific audit procedures performed over the component’s financial information, as instructed by the group engagement team, using component performance materiality.

Audit approach and risk summary

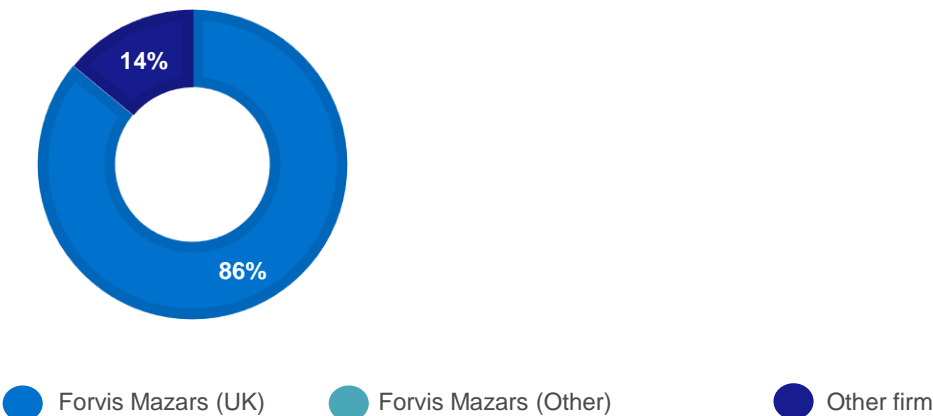
Overview of our group audit approach (continued)

Set out below is a summary of our group audit scope, specifically our coverage of group external expenditure by audit scope (per the definitions on the previous page) and by audit firm.

2024/25 – % OF GROUP EXTERNAL EXPENDITURE



2024/25 – % OF GROUP EXTERNAL EXPENDITURE



Significant findings

Significant findings

The significant findings from our audit include our conclusions regarding the significant risks we identified and other key areas of judgement, which are set out in this section.

Significant risks

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit work over:

- Accounting estimates impacting amounts included in the financial statements;
- Consideration of identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and
- Testing journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the required assurance, and we have no matters to report.

Significant findings

Significant risks (continued)

Net defined benefit liability valuation

Description of the risk

The Council is an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered on a local level by the Derbyshire Pension Fund.

The defined benefit assets and liabilities are significant items in the Council's balance sheet and the Council engages an actuary to perform an annual valuation in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits. Due to a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with this valuation, we have identified a significant risk in this area.

As part of our testing, procedures were performed on the net defined liability held by Rykneld Homes Limited which was consolidated into the Group accounts.

How we addressed this risk

- We addressed this risk by:
- Critically assessing the competency, objectivity and independence of the Derbyshire Pension Fund's Actuary, Hymans Robertson;
 - Liaising with the auditors of the Derbyshire Pension Fund to gain assurance over the design and implementation of the controls in place at the Pension Fund. This included the processes and controls in place to ensure data provided to the Actuary for the purposes of the IAS 19 valuation is complete and accurate;
 - Reviewing the appropriateness of the pension asset and liability valuation methodologies applied by the Pension Fund Actuary, and the key assumptions included within the valuation. This included comparing them to expected ranges, utilising information provided by PwC and consulting actuary engaged by the National Audit Office (NAO); and
 - Agreeing the data in the IAS 19 valuation report provided by the Fund Actuary for accounting purposes to the pension accounting entries disclosures in the Council's financial statements.

Audit conclusion

We have reported one unadjusted non material misstatement as set out in section 06. Our work has provided the required assurance, and we have no other matters to report.

Significant findings

Significant risks (continued)

Valuation of Council Dwellings, land and buildings and Investment Properties

Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material entries on the Balance Sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the Council's holding of land and buildings and investment properties. Although the Council uses a valuation expert to provide information on valuations, there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the revaluation of land and property due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved in providing revaluations.

We have therefore identified the valuation of land, buildings and investment properties to be an area of significant risk.

As part of our testing, procedures were performed on land and buildings held by Rykneld Homes to ensure they are consolidated in line with Group accounting policy's.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by:

- Critically assessing the Council's valuer's scope of work, qualifications, objectivity and independence to carry out the required programme of revaluations;
- Considering whether the overall revaluation methodologies used by the Council's valuers are in line with industry practice, the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's accounting policies;
- substantively testing a sample of revaluations; and
- Critically assessing the approach that the Council adopts to ensure that assets not subject to revaluations in 2024/25 are materially correct, including considering the robustness of the approach in light of the valuation information reported by the Council's valuers.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the required assurance, and we have no other matters to report.

Significant findings

Significant risks (continued)

Application of IFRS 16 for the 2024-25 financial year.	Description of the risk IFRS 16 is applicable from 1 April 2024, designed to report information that better shows lease transactions and provides a better basis for users of financial statements to assess the amount, timing and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. The Council is required to account for its lease arrangements in line with this new standard for the first time in the 2024/25 accounts. This required the Council to re-classify their leases and account for a right of use asset.
	<hr/> How we addressed this risk We addressed this risk through performing audit work over: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critically reviewing the accuracy and completeness of the Council’s assessment of leases under IFRS 16; and• Reviewed the accounting treatment for a sample of leases to test the valuation of the liability and right of use asset.
	<hr/> Audit conclusion We identified an adjusted misstatement as set out in section 06. Our work has provided the required assurance, and we have no other matters to report.

Significant findings

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2024/25 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. No such objections have been raised.

Internal control conclusions

Significant control deficiencies

As part of our audit, we obtained an understanding of the Council's internal control environment and control activities relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, which was sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls, we are required to communicate to the Audit Committee any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identified in during our audit.

Deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A control that is necessary to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Council's internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in this section of our report are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported.

If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported.

Our comments in this section should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

Significant deficiencies in internal control

A significant deficiency in internal control is one which, in our professional judgement, has the potential for financial loss, damage to reputation, or a loss of information which may have implications on the achievement of business strategic objectives. Our view is that observations categorised as a significant deficiency is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of the Audit Committee.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the Council's internal controls as at the date of this report.

Other observations

We also record our observations on the Council's internal controls where, in our professional judgement, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency that do not constitute significant deficiencies in internal control but which we view as being important for consideration by management.

We have not identified any such control deficiencies as at the date of this report.

Summary of misstatements

Summary of misstatements

Unadjusted misstatements

Our overall materiality, performance materiality, and clearly trivial (reporting) threshold were reported in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, issued in July 2025. Any subsequent changes to those figures are set out in the ‘Audit approach and risk summary’ section of this report.

Management has assessed the misstatements in the table below as not being material, individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements and does not plan to adjust. We only report to Audit Committee unadjusted misstatements that are either material by nature or which exceed our reporting threshold.

Description	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Balance Sheet	
	Dr (£ '000)	Cr (£ '000)	Dr (£ '000)	Cr (£ '000)
Dr: Receivable			78	
Cr: Fees, Charges and Other Service Income		78		
Our testing of receivables identified an under accrual of Fees Charges and Other Services. The error was trivial but extrapolated across the population to £0.078m.				
Dr: Asset held for sale			67	
Cr: Asset under construction				67
Extrapolated error noted in valuation of asset held for sale assets being the difference between managements calculation of carrying cost and ours.				
Dr: Pensions Reserve			57	
Cr: Net Pensions Liability				57
The Pension Fund auditor identified an unadjusted difference in asset values during their audit of the Pension Fund. The above is our estimation of the impact on the Council's asset valuations based on the Council's share of Pension Fund assets. The Rykneld share is trivial at £0.028m.				
Aggregate effect of unadjusted misstatements	0	78	202	124

We will obtain written representations confirming that, after considering the unadjusted misstatements, both individually and in aggregate, in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole, no adjustments are required.

Summary of misstatements

Adjusted misstatements

The misstatements in the table below have been adjusted by management. We report all individual misstatements above our reporting threshold that we identify during our audit and which management had adjusted and any other misstatements we believe Audit Committee should be made aware of.

Description	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Balance Sheet	
	Dr (£ '000)	Cr (£ '000)	Dr (£ '000)	Cr (£ '000)
Dr. Capital Adjustment Account			1,584	
Cr. Revaluation reserve				261
Cr. CIES		1,590		
Cr. Right of Use assets				1,323
Cr. Movement in Reserves Statement				1,590
Changes in Valuation method of ROU asset from DRC method to IFRS 16 Method				
Dr. Service specific grant income	139			
Dr. Taxation and on specific grant income	247			
Cr. Movement in Reserves Statement				386
Adjustment for grant income accrued incorrectly in 2023/24				
Aggregate effect of adjusted misstatements	386	1,590	1,584	3,560

Summary of misstatements

Disclosure misstatements

We identified the following disclosure misstatements during our audit that have been corrected by management:

- Narrative report adjusted to reflect correct Pension reserve balance to £10.548m in agreement in note 23c of the accounts.
- Note 2 - A presentation correction has been made in Note 2. The figures relating to the “Transfer of long-term debtor capital loan repayments to the Capital Receipts Reserve” were previously shown on the incorrect line. These have now been correctly reclassified under “Application of Capital Grants to Finance Capital Expenditure
- A prior period adjustment has been removed on the basis of materiality, as the impact was not considered significant to the understanding of the financial statements. The adjustment has been reflected in the 2024/25 position.
- The Audit Fees disclosure was updated.
- Note 9 Expenditure and Income by nature - Classification error in fees, charges and other income. £0.229m grants income was incorrectly classified as fees, charges and other income. Now reclassified to Grants and contributions
- Note 9 Expenditure and Income by nature- Adjustment for a classification error of £1.6m as employee expenses was incorrectly classified as other service expenses. Now adjusted to reclassify to employee expense.
- Note 10 Property, Plant and Equipment disclosure within the draft accounts was omitted. This has been updated in the final accounts
- Note 37 Capital expenditure and capital financing: Note has been updated to accurately reflect the analysis of capital expenditure in various capital investment categories
- Note 39 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes: Note has been updated to include the disclosure of the virgin media case . Correction was also made to pension assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet note to improve clarity and accessibility for readers and reference to anticipated contributions updated to 2025/26 from 2024/25.
- Collection Fund note 3 - Correction was made to amend £1.341m to £1.419m.
- Cash flow Statements - Adjustments for Non - cash movements disclosure added in the accounts.
- Nil lines removed from note 14 Long term debtors note and note 6 Taxation and Non - specific Grant Income note.
- Note 38, Disclosure amendment in note 38 Leases for Right of Use assets.

A number of typographical, signage, casting and spelling errors have also been corrected by management .

We identified no disclosure misstatements during our audit that have not been corrected by management:

We will obtain written representations confirming that, after considering the unadjusted disclosure misstatements, both individually and in aggregate, in the context of the annual report and financial statements taken as a whole, no adjustments are required.

07

Fraud considerations

Fraud considerations

We have a responsibility to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Your responsibilities

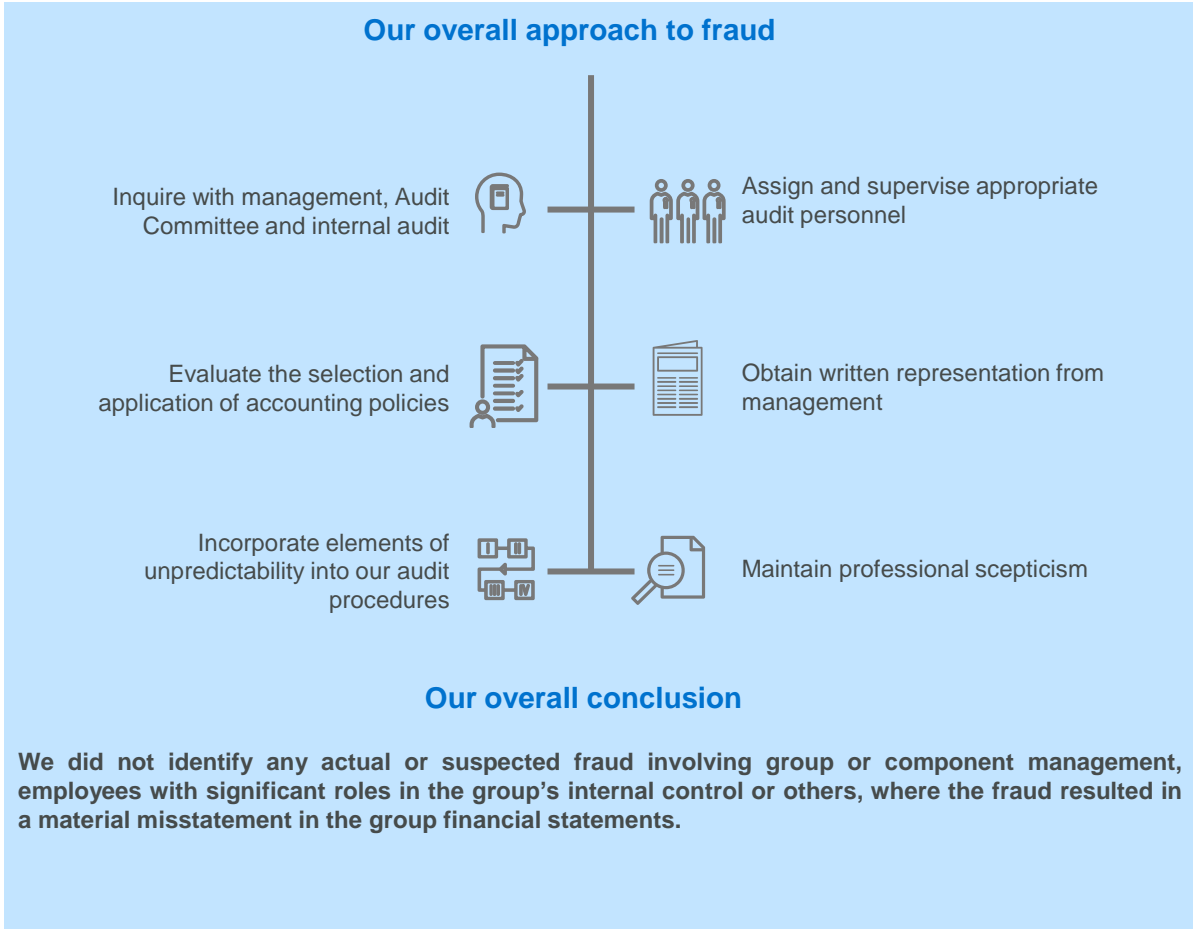
Management has primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud. It is important that management, with the Audit Committee oversight, place a strong emphasis on fraud prevention, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place, and fraud deterrence, which could persuade individuals not to commit fraud because of the likelihood of detection and punishment. This involves a commitment to creating a culture of honesty and ethical behaviour which is reinforced by the Audit Committee's active oversight.

Our responsibilities

We have a responsibility for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in a misstatement is intentional or unintentional. Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant to us – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting, and misstatements resulting from the misappropriation of assets.

ISA presumed fraud risks

As set out in the 'Audit approach and risk summary' section, the risks of fraud in management override of controls were identified as significant risks.



08

Value for Money

Value for Money

Approach to Value for Money

We are required to form a view as to whether the Council has 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 in order to form our view and sets out the overall criterion and sub-criteria that we are required to consider.

This is the first audit year where we have undertaken our value for money (VFM) work under the full 2024 Code of Audit Practice (the Code). Our responsibility remains to be satisfied that the Council has proper arrangements in place, and to report in the auditor's report where we are not satisfied that arrangements are in place. Where we have issued a recommendation in relation to a significant weaknesses this indicates we are not satisfied that arrangements are in place. Separately we provide a commentary on the Council's arrangements in the Auditor's Annual Report.

A key change in the 2024 Code of Audit Practice is the requirement for us to issue our Auditor's Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2025 to you in draft by the 30th November 2025. This is required whether our audit is complete or not. Should our work not be complete, we will report the status of our work and any findings to up to that point (and since the issue of our previous Auditor's Annual Report).

The Code requires us to structure our commentary to report under three specified criteria:

- **Financial sustainability** - How the Council plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- **Governance** - How the Council ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- **Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the Council uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work to understand the arrangements that the Council has 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.

The table overleaf outlines the risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements that we have identified, the risk-based procedures we have undertaken, and the results of our work.

Where our risk-based procedures identify actual significant weaknesses in arrangements we are required to report these and make recommendations for improvement. Where such significant weaknesses are identified, we report these in the audit report by exception. We will also highlight emerging issues or other matters that do not represent significant weaknesses but still require attention from the Council.

The primary output of our work on the Council arrangements is the commentary on those arrangements that forms part of the Auditor's Annual Report. This commentary will provide a summary of the work we have undertaken and our judgements against each of the specified reporting criteria. We intend to issue the Auditor's Annual Report in November 2025.

Status of our work

We have completed our work in respect of the Council's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2025 and we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements that have required us to make a recommendation. Our draft audit report at Appendix C confirms that we have no matters to report in respect of significant weaknesses. As noted above, our commentary on the Council's arrangements will be provided in the Auditor's Annual Report in November 2025.

Appendices

A: Internal control conclusions

B: Draft management representation letter

C: Draft audit report

D: Confirmation of our independence

E: Other communications

F: Current year updates, forthcoming accounting and other issues

Appendix A: Internal control conclusions

Other deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A control that is necessary to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Council’s internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council’s internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in Appendix A are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments in Appendix A should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

We have not identified any internal control observations as at the date of this report.

Appendix A: Internal control conclusions

Follow up on previous internal control points

We set out below an update on internal control points raised in prior periods.

Related Parties

Description of deficiency

As part of our testing of related party disclosures in the accounts, we reviewed declaration forms completed by members and officers. Through this testing, we noted that 19 members had not completed these forms.

Current year update:

Our related party testing in 2024/25 identified that thirteen declaration forms were not received from current Councillors. This was despite attempts from Officers to obtain this information.

Potential effects

Related party transactions could go undetected which may result in disclosure misstatements in the accounts.

Recommendation

All members should complete declaration of interest forms.

Management response

Officers continue to increase communication to Members, with numerous reminders sent, and we tried all best endeavours to ensure that all members completed their declarations. However, 13 members still did not respond to our correspondence.

Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

Forvis Mazars LLP
The Corner
Newcastle
NE1 1DF

xx November 2025

Dear James Collins,

North East Derbyshire District Council - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2025

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of North East Derbyshire District Council the Council and Group for the year ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy myself that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code, as amended by applicable law.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

- unrestricted access to individuals within the Council and Group you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Director of Finance and Resources that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware. I confirm that there is no information provided to you as part of the audit that I consider legally privileged.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Council and Group's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and the data used by the Council and Group in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated

Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Council and Group have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by applicable law.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Council and Group has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Director of Finance and Resources for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Council and Group involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Council and Group's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code, as amended applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Council and Group's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment and intangible assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Charges on assets

All the Council and Group's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

The Council and Group has no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code, as amended by applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Council and Group, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and that the disclosure in the Narrative Report and the subsequent events note 30 to the financial statements fairly reflects that assessment.

Tariffs

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of changes in US trade policy in respect of tariffs, including the impact of reciprocal tariffs by other countries, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and that the disclosure in the Narrative Report and the subsequent events note 30 to the financial statements fairly reflects that assessment.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Council and Group will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts. [TAILOR AS APPROPRIATE]

Annual Governance Statement

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Council and Group’s risk assurance and governance framework and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Council and Group’s financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Arrangements to achieve economy, effectiveness and efficiency in Use of Resources (Value for Money arrangements)

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all findings and correspondence from regulators for previous and ongoing inspections of which I am aware. In addition, I have disclosed to you any other information that would be considered relevant to your work on value for money arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
Director of Finance and Resources (s151 officer)

Appendix C: Draft audit report

Independent auditor’s report to the members of North East Derbyshire District Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of North East Derbyshire District Council ('the Council') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Council and Group Movement in Reserves Statements, the Council and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, the Council and Group Balance Sheets, the Council and Group Cash Flow Statements, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the HRA Statement, the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and the Group as at 31st March 2025 and of the Council's and the Group's expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Council and Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Director of Finance and Resources use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Director of Finance and Resources with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Director of Finance and Resources for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Director of Finance and Resources Responsibilities, the Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Director of Finance and Resources is also responsible for such internal control as the Director of Finance and Resources determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Appendix C: Draft audit report

The Director of Finance and Resources is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Council to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the Council and Group, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, data protection, environmental protection, corruption and anti-bribery, non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to COVID-19.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to :

- gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Council and Group, the environment in which it operates, and the structure of the Council and Group, and considering the risk of acts by the Council and Group which were contrary to the applicable laws and regulations, including fraud;
- inquiring with management and the Audit Committee, as to whether the Council and Group is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

- inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- reviewing relevant meeting minutes in the year;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Council and Group which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

In addition, we management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to :

- making enquiries of management, Head of Internal Audit and the Audit Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud, rests with both management and the Audit Committee. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Director of Resources and Finance use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. **We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, (Revised 2024) and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in November 2024.**

Appendix C: Draft audit report

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Report on the Council’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our view, we are not satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Council’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of North East Derbyshire District Council, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Council those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work required in relation to consolidation returns and received confirmation from the NAO that the group audit of the Whole of Government Account has been completed and that no further work is required to be completed by us

James Collins, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP





The Corner,
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 1DF
Xx November 2025

Appendix D: Confirmation of our independence



We communicate any matters which we believe may have a bearing on the independence or the objectivity of Forvis Mazars LLP and the audit team. As part of our ongoing risk assessment, we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing our Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.


Appendix E: Other communications

Other communication		Response
	Compliance with Laws and Regulations	<p>We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed.</p>
	External confirmations	<p>We did not experience any issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations.</p>
	Related parties	<p>We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; and b. they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
	Going Concern	<p>We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with Director of Finance and Resources that the Council will be a going concern, and therefore we have not identified any evidence to cause us to consider that the use of the going concern assumption in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management, confirming that all relevant information covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements has been taken into account in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.</p>

Appendix E: Other communications

Other communication		Response
	Subsequent events	<p>We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor’s report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.</p>
	Matters related to fraud	<p>Our audit was designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. Please refer to the section titled ‘Fraud considerations’ for our fraud considerations and conclusion.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, Audit Committee, confirming that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud; they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management’s assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> management; employees who have significant roles in internal control; or others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity’s financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Appendix E: Other communications

Other communication		Response
	System of Quality Management	<p>To address the requirements of ISQM (UK) 1, our firm’s System of Quality Management team completes, as part of an ongoing and iterative process, a number of key steps to assess and conclude on our firm’s System of Quality Management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring there is an appropriate assignment of responsibilities under ISQM (UK) 1 and across Leadership• Establishing and reviewing quality objectives each year, ensuring ISQM (UK) 1 objectives align with our firm's strategies and priorities• Identifying, reviewing, and updating quality risks each quarter, taking into consideration a number of input sources (such as FRC / ICAEW review findings, internal monitoring findings, findings from our firm’s root cause analysis and remediation functions, etc.)• Identifying, designing, and implementing responses as part of the process to strengthen our firm's internal control environment and overall quality• Evaluating responses and remediating control gaps or deficiencies <p>We perform an evaluation of our system of quality management on an annual basis. Our latest evaluation was performed as of 31 August 2024. Details of that assessment and our conclusion are set out in our 2023/2024 Transparency Report, which is available on our website here.</p>

Appendix F: Current year updates, forthcoming accounting & other issues

Current and forthcoming accounting issues

New standards and amendments

Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019

IFRS 16 Leases (Issued January 2016)

- IFRS 16 Leases (IFRS 16) has replaced the existing leasing standard, IAS 17, and has introduced significant changes, particularly for lessees. The requirements for lessors is largely unchanged from the position in IAS 17. Lessees will need to recognise right of use assets and associated lease liabilities for all leases (except short-life or low-value leases) as the distinction between operating leases and finance leases is removed. Subsequent to initial recognition, a service concession arrangement liability will subsequently measured following the principles set out in IFRS 16. The introduction of this standard in 2024-25 is likely to lead to significant work being required in order to identify all leases and service concession arrangements to which the Council are party to. There will also be consequential impacts upon capital financing arrangements at many authorities which will need to be identified and addressed. IFRS 16 was adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in 2024/25.

Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023

IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements (Issued April 2024)

- IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements (IFRS 18) is a new standard that replaces IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements. The new standard aims to increase the comparability, transparency and usefulness of information about companies' financial performance. It introduces three key new requirements focusing on the presentation of information in the statement of profit or loss and enhancing certain guidance on disclosures within the financial statements. As IFRS 18 was only issued in April 2024 it has yet to be adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in 2024/25 therefore the applicability to local government is to be determined.

Appendix F: Current year updates, forthcoming accounting & other issues

International Standard on Auditing (UK) 600 Revised - Special considerations - Audits of group financial statements (Including the work of component auditors)

ISA (UK) 600 deals with the special considerations that apply to audits of group financial statements, including those circumstances when component auditors are involved. The auditing standard has been revised. The revised standard is effective for audits of group financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2023. The revisions made to ISA (UK) 600 impact how we perform audits of group financial statements, and how we communicate our audit strategy and audit findings arising from audits of group financial statements. This page sets out the key changes made to ISA (UK) 600 and how Forvis Mazars will apply the requirements of the revised standard in practice.

Key changes

The previous ISA (UK) 600 included prescriptive requirements in respect of the audit procedures required over ‘significant components’ of a group, i.e., a ‘full scope’ audit of a significant component’s financial information relevant to the group financial statements was required. Forvis Mazars defined a ‘significant component’ as one that contributed to the group financial statements more than 15% of the materiality benchmark selected to determine group materiality, e.g., if we had determined materiality using a profit before tax benchmark, any component that contributed more than 15% of the group’s reported profit before tax would be classified as a significant component and a ‘full scope’ audit would be performed over that component’s financial information.

ISA (UK) 600 Revised eliminates the ‘significant component’ concept, opting instead for consideration of risks of material misstatement at the assertion level of the group financial statements that are associated with components. This results in a group audit that is better focused on the risks of material misstatement of the group financial statements and affords greater flexibility in how we classify components and how we may design the nature and extent of audit procedures to be performed over a component’s financial information, i.e., we can determine the nature and extent of the audit procedures to be performed over a component’s financial information based on the specific risks relevant to the group financial statements.

ISA (UK) 600 also, however, removed the option to limit the procedures performed over a ‘non-significant’ component’s financial information to desktop analytical procedures. We are now required to perform substantive audit procedures (or a combination of substantive audit procedures and tests of controls) over the group financial statements, including the financial information relating to components in the group, until the residual, untested balances, classes of transaction and disclosures in the group financial statements are below our group materiality. This is to ensure that aggregation risk (the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole) is addressed appropriately.

In combination, these changes may result in a change to the nature and extent of the audit procedures we perform over the financial information of components on a group audit compared to previous years and may result in components that were not previously in scope of our group audit being brought into scope to ensure that we address aggregation risk appropriately.

To ensure consistency of approach, Forvis Mazars has applied the definitions set out below when performing audits of group financial statements:

Key component	Material component	Non-material component
Any component: i. Which is greater or equal to 15% of the benchmark chosen for calculating group materiality (key by size); or ii. Where the specific nature or circumstance of its financial information make it likely to include significant risks of misstatement of the group financial statements (key by risk).	Any component, other than a key component, that contributes to one or more group financial statement areas an amount that is above group financial statement materiality.	A component, that is not a key component or a material component, that is scoped into a group audit to reduce the risk of material misstatement of the group financial statements to an acceptably low level (based on size or risk) in situations when, after assessing which components are key components and material components, the aggregate amount of a financial statement area related to un-scoped components is still above group financial statement materiality.

Appendix F: Current year updates, forthcoming accounting & other issues

International Standard on Auditing (UK) 600 Revised - Special considerations - Audits of group financial statements (including the work of component auditors)

Key changes (continued)

Definition of ‘component’ - The definition of ‘component’ has been revised to “an entity, business unit, function or business activity, or some combination thereof, determined by the group auditor for the purposes of planning and performing audit procedures in a group audit”.

This provides clarity on how components may be identified in a group audit and may result in a change to how we identify components on a group audit compared to previous years. For example, we may group separate legal entities (e.g., subsidiaries) in a group based on common characteristics (such as common management, common information systems, and common geographical locations) and treat those components as a single component, when appropriate to do so.

Common controls - The definition of ‘group-wide’ controls has been removed and we are instead required to consider ‘common controls’, being controls that operate in a common manner for multiple entities or business units.

This may assist us in grouping separate legal entities, business units, functions, or business activities in a group into a single component for the purposes of a group audit; or it may result in us grouping specific account balances or classes of transaction recorded by individual legal entities, business units, functions, or business activities into a single population for the purposes of our audit procedures.

For audits where we are adopting a controls-based audit strategy, this may result in efficiencies, as we can rely on a single control for the purposes of the audits of more than one component where that control is common to those components.

Definition of ‘engagement team’ - The definition of ‘engagement team’ has been revised to include component auditors. While this change may seem inconsequential, it forms part of the overall changes intended by ISA (UK) 600 Revised to enhance two-way communication between the group auditor and component auditors during a group audit. This will result in enhanced direction and supervision of component auditors by the group auditor during a group audit.

Calculation of component materiality - The requirement to set overall materiality for a component has been removed. We are now only required to determine component performance materiality.

Other changes - ISA (UK) 600 Revised includes new and revised requirements and application material that better aligns the standard with recently revised standards such as ISQM (UK) 1, ISA (UK) 220, and ISA (UK) 315. The new and revised requirements also strengthen our responsibilities related to professional scepticism, planning and performing a group audit, two-way communications between the group auditor and component auditors, and audit documentation. These changes are to encourage proactive management of quality at the group engagement level and the component level; reinforce the need for robust communication and interactions during a group audit; and foster an appropriately independent and challenging sceptical mindset.

Scope of audit work to be performed over a component’s financial information - Forvis Mazars will, determine the scope of work to be performed over a component’s financial information on a group audit using the definitions set out below:

Full scope	Specific scope	Group Engagement Team Instructed Procedures
Designing and performing audit procedures on the entire financial information of a component.	Designing and performing audit procedures on one or more specified account balances, classes of transaction, and/ or disclosures of a component.	Performing specified audit procedures, as designed and instructed by the group engagement team.

Contact

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Director

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Forvis Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Forvis Mazars Global, a leading global professional services network. Forvis Mazars LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC308299 and with its registered office at 30 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7AU. Registered to carry on audit work in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Details about our audit registration can be viewed at www.auditregister.org.uk under reference number C001139861. VAT number: GB 839 8356 73

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