

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MEDWAY COUNCIL (the "Authority")

Issue of audit opinion on the financial statements

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2019 issued on 1 August 2019 we reported that, in our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2019 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19; and
- had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2019 issued on 1 August 2019 we reported that, on the basis of our work, we were satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2019.

Since issuing that audit report, a matter has come to our attention as a result of Ofsted's inspection report on the Authority's children's social care services, issued on 27 August 2019, which judged services to help and protect children in Medway to be 'inadequate'. This matter is evidence of weaknesses in proper arrangements for understanding and using appropriate financial and performance information to support informed decision making and performance management and for planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities. If we had been aware of that information at the date when we gave our conclusion, we would have qualified that conclusion on these grounds.

Certificate

In our report dated 1 August 2019, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit on that date until we had completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the year ended 31 March 2019. We have now completed this work.

No matters, other than those set out in the Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources section above, have come to our attention since that date that would have a material impact on the financial statements on which we gave an unqualified opinion and conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Medway Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General.



Darren Wells, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Gatwick

10 October 2019