

Independent auditor's report to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

In our auditor's report issued on 24 November 2021, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for the year ended 31 March 2021, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice, until we had completed:

- our work on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and issued our Auditor's Annual Report; and
- the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.

We have now completed this work. The results of our work are set out below.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2021 issued on 24 November 2021, we reported that in our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

No matters have come to our attention since 24 November 2021 that would have a material impact on the financial statements on which we gave this opinion.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2021.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter.

Responsibilities of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its 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 the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

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

We have documented our understanding of the arrangements the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we have considered whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex those matters we are required to state to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Grady

Paul Grady
Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

London

24 November 2022