

Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	31/01/19
Originator	Team Manager - Democratic Services
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Best Value Assurance Report, - Correspondence between ELC Chief Executive and Secretary to the Accounts Commisison

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Angela Leitch
Designation	Chief Executive
Date	17 January 2019

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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Best Value Assurance Report - Correspondence between ELC Chief Executive and the Secretary to the Accounts Commission

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To record the correspondence between the Chief Executive, East Lothian Council (ELC) and the Secretary to the Accounts Commission, Audit Scotland, in relation to the ELC Best Value Assurance Report that was submitted to East Lothian Council on 11 December 2018. The correspondence is attached at appendices 1a and 1b.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note that following the meeting of East Lothian Council, the ELC Chief Executive updated Audit Scotland on the Council's consideration of the Accounts Commission's findings on the Controller of Audit's report on Best Value audit work in East Lothian Council.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Audit Scotland carried out a Best Value Assurance review of East Lothian Council in Spring 2018.
- 3.2 A report on the findings and recommendations of the Accounts Commission's Best Value Assurance Report on East Lothian Council was submitted to Council on 11 December 2018. The report entitled "Best Value Assurance Report" is available on the ELC website at the following link:
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16262/east_lothian_council

- 3.3 Following the Council meeting there was an exchange of letters between Angela Leitch, Chief Executive, ELC, and Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Accounts Commission (appendices 1a and 1b).
- 3.4 The letter from Mrs Leitch dated 19 December 2018, refers to an extract minute of the Council meeting. This minute will be submitted for approval to the meeting of Council on 26 February 2019. Once approved, the minute will be available on the ELC website at the following link:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16262/east_lothian_council

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As detailed in the report to Council dated 11 December 2018.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the wellbeing of equalities groups and an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - none
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other - none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Report to Council, dated 11 December 2018, entitled Best Value Assurance Report

AUTHOR'S NAME	Jill Totney
DESIGNATION	Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing
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DATE	31 January 2019

By Email : preilly@audit-scotland.gov.uk

Our Ref : AL/JMcN
Your Ref :
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19 December 2018

Mr Paul Reilly
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Angela Leitch
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Dear Paul,

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT

I refer to your letter of 26 October 2018 advising me of the Accounts Commission's findings on the Controller of Audit's report on Best Value audit work in East Lothian Council.

Please note that, as per the statutory requirements on the Council to consider the Commission's findings and the report's recommendations, I submitted a report to East Lothian Council on 11 December 2018.

I attach for your information a copy of the report, which includes the Council's response to the findings and recommendations and includes also the Council Improvement Plan detailing the actions the Council intends to take over the coming 15 months to address the Controller of Audit's recommendations. I also attach an extract of the Draft Minute of the Council meeting, which summarises the discussion on the report and shows that the report and the Council Improvement Plan were approved unanimously by the Council.

I note that the final Accounts Commission finding was that the Commission will maintain an interest in the Council's progress and the Controller of Audit will monitor progress through the annual audit. I look forward to collaborating with the Council's auditors over the coming year and working with them to ensure we report on the progress we make in implementing the actions set out in the Council Improvement Plan.

Thank you for a productive meeting on 26 November 2018 and may I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Angela Leitch
Chief Executive

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Angela Leitch
Chief Executive
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16 January 2019

Dear Angela

Best Value Assurance Report: East Lothian Council

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2018.

I am pleased to learn that the Council has considered and noted the Best Value Assurance Report and Accounts Commission findings and has agreed an improvement plan. I have informed the Commission accordingly.

I am also pleased to note your points about your fruitful relationship with the external audit team as you look forward to progressing your improvement plan. I wish you and the Council well with this endeavour.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Reilly
Secretary to the Commission