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Mick Burrows
Nottinghamshire County Council
Chief Executive
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

Our ref NB/NCC/1314/01

25 April 2013

Dear Mick

Annual audit fee 2013/14

I am writing to confirm the audit work and fee that we propose for the 2013/14 financial year at Nottinghamshire County Council. Our proposals are based on the risk-based approach to audit planning as set out in the Code of Audit Practice and work mandated by the Audit Commission.

As we have not yet completed our audit for 2012/13 the audit planning process for 2013/14, including the risk assessment, will continue as the year progresses and fees will be reviewed and updated as necessary. We will naturally keep you informed.

The proposed indicative audit and certification fees for 2013/14 are shown below. All fees are subject to VAT.

Audit area	Planned fee 2013/14	Planned fee 2012/13
Code of Audit Practice audit fee – Nottinghamshire County Council	£130,950	£130,950
Audit of Pension Fund	£29,926	£29,927
Certification of grant claims & returns	£4,400	£1,950

The fee for the Code of Practice audit and the audit of the Pension Fund is unchanged from the planned fee for 2012/13 and is in line with the scale fee recommended by the Audit Commission

The Audit Commission has calculated the composite indicative fee for the certification of grant claims and returns. This based on the Council requiring specific grants claims and returns to be certified. I will write to you later this year with more details on our certification work.

The indicative fees are based on a number of assumptions, including that you will provide us with complete and materially accurate financial statements, with good quality supporting

working papers, within agreed timeframes. It is imperative that you achieve this. If this is not the case and we have to complete more work than was envisaged, we will need to charge additional fees for this work. Our assumptions are set out in more detail in Appendix 1 to this letter.

In setting the fee at this level, I have assumed that the general level of risk in relation to the audit of the financial statements and certification work is not significantly different from that identified for the 2012/13 audit. A more detailed audit plan will be issued later this year. This will detail the risks identified, planned audit procedures and (if required) any changes in fee. If I need to make any significant amendments to the audit fee during the course of the audit, I will first discuss this with the S151 officer and then prepare a report for the Audit Committee, outlining the reasons why the fee needs to change.

I expect to issue a number of reports relating to my work over the course of the audit. These are listed at Appendix 2.

The proposed fee excludes any additional work we may agree to undertake at the request of Nottinghamshire County Council. Any such piece of work will be separately discussed and a detailed project specification agreed with you.

The key members of our audit team for the 2013/14 audit are:

Name	Role	Contact details
Sarah Draper	Manager	sarah.draper@kpmg.co.uk 0115 945 4479
Sayeed Haris	Assistant Manager	sayeed.haris@kpmg.co.uk 0116 256 6061

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you are in any way dissatisfied, or would like to discuss how we can improve our service, please contact me in the first instance. Alternatively, you may wish to contact KPMG's national contact partner for Audit Commission work, Trevor Rees (trevor.rees@kpmg.co.uk).

If we are unable to satisfy your concerns, you have the right to make a formal complaint to the Audit Commission. The complaints procedure is set out in the leaflet '*Something to Complain About*', which is available from the Commission's website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) or on request.

Yours sincerely



Neil Bellamy
Director

Appendix 1 - Audit fee assumptions

In setting the fee, I have assumed that:

- the level of risk in relation to the audit of the financial statements is not significantly different from that identified for 2012/13;
- you will inform us of significant developments impacting on our audit;
- internal audit meets the appropriate professional standards;
- internal audit undertakes appropriate work on all systems that provide material figures in the financial statements sufficient that we can place reliance for the purposes of our audit;
- you will identify and implement any changes required under the CIPFA IFRS-based Code of Practice on local Authority Accounting within your 2013/14 financial statements;
- your financial statements will be made available for audit in line with the timetable we agree with you;
- good quality working papers and records will be provided to support the financial statements in line with our *prepared by client* request and by the date we agree with you;
- requested information will be provided within agreed timescales;
- prompt responses will be provided to draft reports;
- complete and accurate claims and returns are provided for certification, with supporting working papers, within agreed timeframes; and
- additional work will not be required to address questions or objections raised by local government electors or for special investigations such as those arising from disclosures under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Improvements to the above factors may allow reductions to the audit fee in future years. Where these assumptions are not met, we will be required to undertake additional work and charge an increased audit fee. The fee for the audit of the financial statements will be re-visited when we issue the detailed audit plan.

Any changes to our audit plan and fee will be agreed with you. Changes may be required if:

- new residual audit risks emerge;
- additional work is required by the Audit Commission, KPMG or other regulators; or
- additional work is required as a result of changes in legislation, professional standards or as a result of changes in financial reporting.

Appendix 2 - Planned outputs

Our reports will be discussed and agreed with the appropriate officers before being issued to the Audit Committee.

Planned output	Indicative date
External audit plan	February 2014
Interim audit report – if required	April/May 2014
Report to those charged with governance (ISA260 report)	September 2014
Pension Fund Audit Highlights memorandum	September 2014
Auditor's report giving the opinion on the financial statements, value for money conclusion and audit certificate	September 2014
Opinion on Whole of Government Accounts return / NHS Summarisation schedules	September/October 2014
Annual audit letter	November 2014
Certification of grant claims and returns	January 2015