

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

### **Issue of audit opinion on the financial statements**

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2015 issued on 29 September 2015 we reported that, in our opinion, the financial statements:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of Manchester City Council as at 31 March 2015 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2015 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- had been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 and applicable law.

### **Issue of qualified value for money conclusion**

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2015 issued on 29 September 2015 we reported a qualified value for money conclusion in the following terms:

#### **Basis for qualified conclusion**

In seeking to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources we identified the following matter:

The publication of an inspection report by Ofsted dated September 2014 concluded that the overall arrangements for ensuring the effectiveness of Children's Services at the Council and the Local Safeguarding Children Board in the Manchester City Council area were judged to be "inadequate". The judgement is evidence of weaknesses in the Council's arrangements for prioritising resources. The Council has developed an Improvement Plan to address Ofsted recommendations. Section 6 of the Council's Annual Governance Statement provides a progress update under the heading "External Inspectorate Ratings".

#### **Qualified conclusion**

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission in October 2014, with the exception of the matter reported in the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph above, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Manchester City Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2015.

#### **Certificate**

In our report dated 29 September 2015, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit on that date until we had completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We have now completed this work. No matters 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 qualified value for money conclusion.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Manchester City Council in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

Mark Heap  
Director  
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

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2 October 2015