

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2022 issued on 25 September 2023 we reported that, in our opinion, the financial statements:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of Bedford Borough Council as at 31 March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASMC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022).

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

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2022 issued on 25 September 2023 we reported that, in our opinion the pension fund's financial statements:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2022 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022; and
- had been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASMC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

### **Certificate**

In our report dated 25 September 2023, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO as group auditor has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of Bedford Borough Council. This confirmation has now been received.

In addition, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we had issued our Auditor's Annual Report, including our commentary on your value for money arrangements. This report has now been issued.

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 no matters have come to our attention that would have resulted in a different opinion on the financial statements or additional exception reporting on significant weaknesses in the Authority's value for money arrangements.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of Bedford Borough 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.



Debbie Hanson (Key Audit Partner)  
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)  
Luton  
1 May 2024