

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Issue of audit opinion on the financial statements

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2021 issued on 4 November 2021 we reported that, in our opinion, the financial statements:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of West Sussex County Council as at 31 March 2021 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

Issue of audit opinion on the pension fund financial statements

In our audit report for the year ended 31 March 2021 issued on 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 2021 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2021: and
- had been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

Certificate

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

In our report dated 4 November 2021, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we had completed the work necessary to issue our assurance certificate in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. This assurance statement has now been issued and the NAO as group auditor has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of West Sussex County Council.

In our report dated 4 November 2021, we also explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we had completed the work necessary to address an objection received from a local elector but were satisfied that this work did not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our work for value for money arrangements. This objection has now been determined and there was no material effect on the financial statements or on our work for value for money arrangements.

No other 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 West Sussex County 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.

Helen Thompson
Ernst & Young LLP

Helen Thompson (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Southampton
4 August 2023