

BPC 1819 Explanation of Negative Responses

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

Explanation of Negative Responses

Assertion 3: We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.

Explanation 3: The Council did not routinely publish agendas and minutes of its meetings on its web site. There was no evidence of agendas published for the meetings in May, August, October and December 2018 and January 2019. There was no evidence of minutes published for the meetings in August, October and December 2018.

Assertion 4: We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Explanation 4: The external auditor included in the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18, dated 30 August 2018, that the Council had not complied with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it had failed to make proper provision in 2018/19 for the exercise of public rights. The period was not long enough and did not include the first 10 working days of July 2018. The actual period notified was from 10 June to 10 July 2018 and was therefore not the required 30 working days. As a result, the Council must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights in 2019/20.

Assertion 7: We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

Explanation 7: Following publishing requirement omissions of documents relating to 2016/17, the internal auditor included in the Internal Audit Report 2017/18, dated 7 April 2018, that the Council should comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code as soon as practicably possible in 2018/19. There was no evidence of publication on the Council's web site of key documents for 2017/18 relating to expenditure above £100, the annual internal auditor's report and agendas and minutes of the Council's meetings.