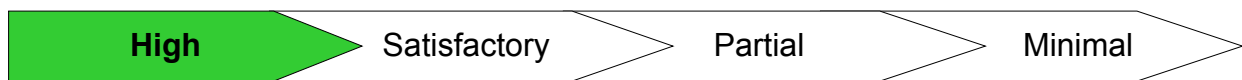


Appendix 2a: Audit Opinion and Themes

Assurance



Key Financial Systems

Objective

To assess whether the key controls in the following financial systems effectively prevent or detect material financial errors, on a timely basis, so that this information can be relied upon when producing the Council's statement of accounts.

Scope and Control Opinions

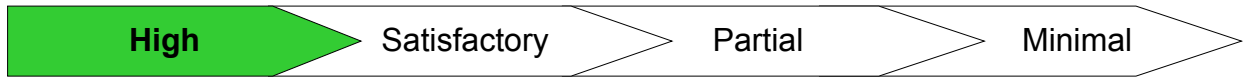
The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the design and operation of the key controls listed in the table below, which also shows the assessed strength of each control.

Income Receipting and Banking

Key controls audited	Strength of control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information from originating payment systems is accurate, complete and transferred to the cash receipting system in a timely manner. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments by CHAPS and cheques are necessary, authorised and supported by appropriate documentation to confirm their validity. 	Satisfactory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Debits are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorised properly and supported by appropriate evidence to confirm their necessity and validity when they are set up regularly reviewed to confirm their ongoing necessity. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliations between the Income Receipting and other key financial systems are complete, accurate and timely. <p><i>Note: This audit opinion is influenced by the reconciliations to the Income Receipting system that were tested within the other key financial systems audited this year.</i></p>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff declare relevant interests and appropriate action is taken to avoid conflicts of interest when allocating work. 	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff access to, and permissions within, the online banking facility are restricted, according to assigned roles and responsibilities. 	High

Appendix 2a: Audit Opinion and Themes

Assurance



Key controls audited	Strength of control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous audit recommendations have been implemented properly, in a timely manner. 	Satisfactory

Issues (where partial or minimal assessment is given)

Staff have not updated their declarations of interest statements since June 2014. Action will be taken to refresh them this year.

Number of actions agreed: 2

Treasury Management

Key controls audited	Strength of control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is appropriate formulation and approval of the Treasury Management Policy and regular reporting in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasury management transactions are properly authorised and supported by appropriate evidence to confirm their validity (including investments placed, recalled and borrowings made and repaid). 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasury management transactions are promptly and accurately reflected in the General Ledger system. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous audit recommendations have been implemented properly, in a timely manner. 	High

Number of actions agreed: 0