

29th October 2015

**Direct Line:** (01283) 569180  
**Reply to:** Councillor L Milner  
**Our Ref:**

Councillor Tittley  
Chair, Audit Committee  
Staffordshire County Council  
2 Staffordshire Place  
Wedgwood Building, Tipping St  
Stafford  
ST16 2DH

Dear Councillor Tittley,

**External Audit of the Pension Fund**

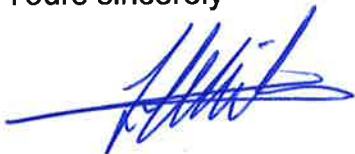
As you are no doubt aware, the statutory deadlines are being brought forward for the closure and external audit of the accounts. For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the accounts must be closed, audited and published by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

At the Borough Council we achieved this earlier deadline in 2014/15, with the audited accounts approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 by the Audit Committee. However, our external auditors were unable to formally sign off the accounts until late September. This was because they were waiting for the relevant assurance from your external auditors (PWC) in relation to pension fund audit. Our auditors had been led to believe that this assurance would be available in July.

With this in mind, I am writing to you in the hope that you are able to facilitate earlier assurance, ideally in July 2016, in relation to the external audit of the pension fund for 2015/16. Any assistance you can provide in this regard would be most appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Len Milner  
Chair, Audit Committee  
len.milner@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk