

Confidential

# EY working with you

An overview of our approach

March 2019



# Contents



1

Our commitment to you

1



2

Working with you

2



3

Value beyond the audit

3





# Our commitment to you



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority opted into the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Appointing Person scheme which started in 2018/19. PSAA appointed EY as your auditors. PSAA is responsible under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 for monitoring compliance with the contract and is committed to ensuring good quality audit services are provided by its suppliers. Details of PSAA's audit quality monitoring arrangements are available from its website, [www.psa.co.uk](http://www.psa.co.uk).



Janet Dawson – Partner

I am the lead partner for this contract, and EY's Global Government and Public Sector Assurance Leader. I have been a partner in Government and Public Sector (GPS) assurance services for 14 years, and have over 20 years of experience and knowledge from working in the sector. My work across health and central government brings an understanding of the broader context of the environment that you operate within.

My appreciation of the value of audit, transparency, and the importance of working in partnership with the public sector aligns with PSAA in promoting and supporting those values through our work. I have asked Neil Harris to lead your engagement on behalf of EY. Our commitment to quality and culture of consultation means that they will draw on the expertise within the firm in fulfilling this responsibility.

Our extensive experience of providing a range of assurance services has demonstrated that strong relationships, clear communication, and investing time with our clients to understand their issues delivers the highest quality outcomes.

This is our commitment to you.

Our contract with PSAA contains a method statement which sets out the firm's commitment to deliver quality audit services, our audit approach, and what clients can expect from us. A summary of the key points of the method statement follows. It is provided as a guide and reference for liaising with us, and a benchmark for you to provide feedback on our performance to PSAA via its survey in Autumn 2019.



# Working with you

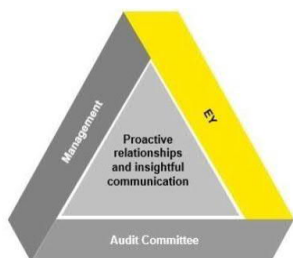
## Communication

Our experience shows that close, constructive working relationships are built on trust and open dialogue.

Neil Harris is your engagement lead and responsible for our relationship protocols, overall audit service and quality. We meet regularly with Officers and Members, discussing sector challenges and bringing insights from our network. Your engagement manager, Eli Johns, is a key contact and brings significant experience of managing local authority audits.

Our relationship protocols allow you to escalate concerns to Janet Dawson (Contact Partner) or Steve Varley (UK Managing Partner) should you need to.

Our Audit Planning Report contains further information on our planning approach and timetable, giving you a risk based, tailored audit. We ensure our senior leaders are accessible for management and members.



## Knowledge and training

Significant investment in the development of dedicated GPS teams is part of our commitment to improve skills in the public sector. Our structured recruiting and training approach delivers the best audit quality. All our training is developed by technical specialists and is quality and risk assessed. Staff must pass online tests following training, to demonstrate they can apply the learning in practice.

GPS sector specific training including emerging opportunities and risks, new requirements and specific technical areas, e.g., capital accounting, group accounts, LG pensions and other areas.

Topics are derived from our sector knowledge and stakeholder engagement.

We share these insights with you via our Audit Committee Briefings, Public Sector Accounting Workshops, Audit Committee Forums and other bespoke training sessions.



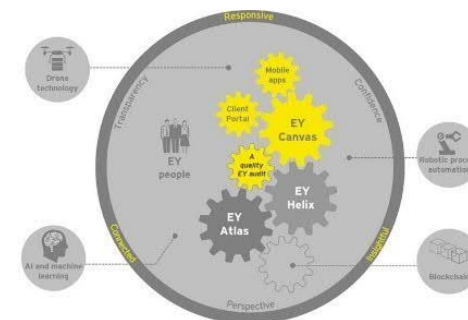
## Quality and Innovation

Audit quality is our primary goal in ensuring confidence in public services in a landscape of constant change and uncertainty. Factors which contribute to achieving consistently high quality audits are our people, tailored audits, consultation, and engagement quality reviews.

Our consultation policies are built upon a culture of collaboration, whereby audit professionals are encouraged to share perspectives on complex accounting, auditing and reporting issues.

Audit quality is at the heart of our innovation strategy.

We will continue to innovate and integrate new technologies into our audit process. The technologies discussed so far are just the start of our journey, designed to grow and be enhanced with additional functionalities.





# Value beyond the audit

In line with the firm's broader vision to build a better working world, EY's commitment to, and investment in, the public sector is focussed on delivering sustainable social value.

We are the first of the Big 4 firms to establish an apprenticeship programme awarded 'employer status' by the Skills Funding Agency, that specifically addresses the needs of deprived communities. 'EY Business Apprenticeships' is a way of investing in local people, directly challenging the UK skills gap, whilst prioritising those from deprived communities, and disadvantaged backgrounds. Our work under the PSAA contract enable us to create around 165 additional apprentice roles.

EY was also the major graduate recruiter to change our minimum entry requirements, increasing inclusivity by opening up opportunities for talented individuals regardless of their background and education.



## Economic and Social

We deliver socio-economic improvements by carefully aligning existing initiatives to our clients' objectives, for example, local authorities' focus on local employability.

Examples include: Removing barriers to employment and education: our 'Smart Futures' initiative provides Year 12 students access to paid work experience, employability workshops and career talks plus 10-months of mentoring from an EY employee. We deliver this from 11 EY offices across the UK. The benefit to you is that we focus on state schools and prioritise those on free school meals. In addition, our 'Stay Curious' and 'Employability Support' initiatives raise awareness of audit career opportunities to STEM students and provide CV advice, networking, mock interviews and assessment centres. Collectively the improvement outcomes include increased employability for young people in the community, connecting schools, universities, employers and building confidence in the students themselves.

Supporting local businesses for prosperity in the community: the EY Foundation, our independent charity, supports collaboration between young people and local businesses. The benefit is a community better connected, focussed on key issues, and providing a voice to the under privileged.

Our global EY Ripples programme enables our staff to donate time to make use of their knowledge, skills and experience to support young people and impact entrepreneurs, by providing mentoring support, business skills training, and more equitable access to resources – to drive sustainable inclusive growth.

## Environmental

We protect the environment by minimising waste and using resources efficiently, e.g., we proactively manage and monitor the environmental impacts of our supply chain, and our own people. We encourage carbon footprint reduction through initiatives such as Bike to Work, Flexible Working Policy, and our sustainable travel strategy. We have also made changes to our processes from procurement to recruitment to minimise the environmental impact of them on the wider world.

## EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

### About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](http://ey.com).

### Ernst & Young LLP

The UK firm Ernst & Young LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC300001 and is a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF.

© 2019 Ernst & Young LLP. Published in the UK.  
All Rights Reserved.

ED None

EY-000089533-01 (UK) 03/19. CSG London.



In line with EY's commitment to minimise its impact on the environment, this document has been printed on paper with a high recycled content.

[ey.com/uk](http://ey.com/uk)