



# Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

Mr Tim Willis  
Director of Corporate Resources  
Thanet District Council  
Cecil Street  
Margate  
Kent

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
30 Finsbury Square  
London EC2P 2YU  
T +44 (0)20 7383 5100  
F +44 (0)20 7184 4301  
grantthornton.co.uk

21 November 2017

Dear Tim

## **Your complaint**

Thank you for meeting with me last week to discuss your complaint about the finalisation of the 2016/17 audit and the lateness of raising a matter at the Governance and Audit Committee on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> September

Firstly, we acknowledge that members and yourself were placed in a difficult position on the 27<sup>th</sup> September and the lateness of the issue raised alarm amongst members and questioned whether or not they could safely approve the accounts. We fully appreciate this is a position neither you nor Grant Thornton would wish to be in and we apologise for our part that lead to this unfortunate situation.

The area we were struggling to get assurance over was the judgement that property, plant and equipment and investment properties not revalued in the year were not materially misstated. At no time were we seeking to 'insert' our valuation of these assets into the accounts, rather it was to test the reasonableness of officers' judgement as we are required to do by auditing standards. We accept it might have felt different to your team.

An error on our part was the interpretation of information supplied to us on the 30<sup>th</sup> August and the lateness of our interpretation. As you set out in your letter, we provided an analysis of our interpretation to officers but this was on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. We followed this up with a telephone conversation. It is apparent that Grant Thornton and officers had different understanding of the outcome of the telephone call between us and finance staff. We understood finance staff agreed to provide information before the committee meeting to confirm Grant Thornton's interpretation was wrong and therefore provide assurance, finance staff understood this information could be provided after the committee meeting. This breakdown in communication lead to the lack of communication directly with you until the very start of the meeting and in part to the position we took at the Governance and Audit Committee - not withstanding our acceptance of the impact our error on the wrong interpretation applied to the information provided, played.

As we discussed, we remain fully committed to working closely with officers in the future to avoid such a situation arising again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Dosselt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

For Grant Thornton UK LLP