

If calling please ask for:

Our ref:

Your ref:

J Ward
01243 534805
or e-mail:
jward@chichester.gov.uk

19 September
2013

Dear Sir

**Chichester District Council
Letter of Management Representation for the period ended 31 March 2013**

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Chichester District Council ("the Council") for the year ended 31 March 2013. We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as of 31 March 2013 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose - all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Ernst & Young LLP
Wessex House
19 Threefield Lane
Southampton
SO14 3QB

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13.
2. We acknowledge our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. We believe the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial position, and of its expenditure and income of the Council in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.
3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.
4. We believe that the Council has a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
5. There are no unadjusted audit differences identified during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented.

B. Fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
2. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
3. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Council's internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, we have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving other employees in which the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have no knowledge of any allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud or suspected fraud, (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers") which could result in a misstatement of the financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of the Council.

C. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

1. We have disclosed to you all known actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

D. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. We have provided you with:
 - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters as agreed in terms of the audit engagement;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit and;
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
3. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the year to the most recent meeting on the following date:
 - a. Full Council - 23 July 2013
 - b. Cabinet - 3 September 2013
 - c. Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 27 June 2013
4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the period ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the year end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.
5. We have disclosed to you, and the Council has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

E. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the financial statements.
2. We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.
3. We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in Note 35 to the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

F. Subsequent Events

1. There have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

G. Accounting Estimates

1. We believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
2. Accounting estimates recognised or disclosed in the financial statements:
 - We believe the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, we used in determining accounting estimates is appropriate and the application of these processes is consistent.
 - The disclosures relating to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
 - The assumptions we used in making accounting estimates appropriately reflects our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.
 - No subsequent event requires an adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

H Retirement benefits

1. On the basis of the process established by us and having made appropriate enquiries, we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities are consistent with our knowledge of the business. All significant retirement benefits and all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

I Restatement of comparative information (i.e. in the form of a prior year adjustment)

The 2011-12 comparative year on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement has been restated to reflect the inclusion of Westgate Leisure and Chichester Contract Services within the Gross Expenditure and Gross Income headings. Previous to 2012-13, these trading operations of the Council were shown net. Only the comparatives for Westgate Leisure impact on the figures presented in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The 2011-12 comparative year on Note 8, Property Plant and Equipment has been restated to correct the opening balances for Cost or Valuation, and Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment for the Westgate Centre Land and the Selsey Community Leisure Centre. In 2009-10 an impairment transaction was disclosed in the accounts in error. This change in asset value should have been reflected as a revaluation loss not as an impairment. This change has no effect on the net book value of the assets; therefore the balance sheet has not changed.

The comparative amounts have been correctly restated to reflect the above matters and appropriate note disclosure of these restatements have also been included in the current year's financial statements.

J Contingent Liabilities

We are unaware of any violations or possible violations of laws or regulations the effects of which should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as the basis of recording a contingent loss (other than those disclosed or accrued in the financial statements).

We are unaware of any known or probable instances of non-compliance with the requirements of regulatory or governmental authorities, including their financial reporting requirements, and there have been no communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives concerning investigations or allegations of non-compliance, except for matters of routine, normal, recurring nature (e.g., examinations by bank and insurance examiners, examinations by taxing authorities) none of which involves any allegations of non-compliance with laws or regulations that should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.

K Use of the Work of an Expert

We agree with the findings of Hymans Roberston engaged to provide IAS19 valuation services for the defined benefit pension scheme as set out in Note 34 and have adequately considered the qualifications of the experts in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records.

We believe the measurement processes employed, including related assumptions and models, in determining accounting estimates is appropriate and consistent with our expectations.

We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the experts with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the experts.

Yours faithfully,

John Ward CPFA
District Treasurer

I confirm that this letter has been discussed and agreed at the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 19 September 2013.

Patricia Tull
Chairman of Corporate Governance & Audit Committee