


Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Corporate Governance Committee	
Date:	27 July 2018	
Report Title:	Letter of Representation	

## Cover sheet:

### 1 Purpose / Summary

To agree the format and content of the Letter of Representation provided to the independent external auditor (EY) at the conclusion of the audit of the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts.

### 2 Key issues

- Written representation provides an acknowledgement of our responsibilities in relation to the Statement of Accounts.
- The letter required by the independent external auditor is attached.
- The letter requires signing by the Chairman of this Committee and the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

### 3 Recommendations

- It is recommended that members approve the content and form of the Letter of Representation to be signed by the Chairman of this Committee and the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Anne Hay, Portfolio Holder, Finance
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Peter Carpenter, Interim Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Peter Carpenter, Interim Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	

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27 July 2018

Dear Neil,

**Fenland District Council – 2017/18 Financial Year  
Letter of Representation**

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Fenland District Council (“the Council”) for the year ended 31 March 2018.

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 Fenland District Council as of 31 March 2018 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with the CIPFA /LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit is 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 yourselves:

**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 2015 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

2. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Council, 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, financial performance and cash flows of the Council in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18. 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. As members of management of the Council, 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 2017/18, 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. Non-compliance with law and regulations, including fraud**

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Council's activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible to identify and address any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.
2. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of your assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud that may have affected the Council (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers"), including non-compliance matters:
  - involving financial statements;
  - related to laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Council's financial statements;
  - related to laws and regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Council's activities, its ability to continue to operate, or to avoid material penalties;
  - involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal controls, or others; or
  - in relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

## **C. 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;
  - 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 and Corporate Governance Committee (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> march 2018 to the most recent meeting on the following date: 27 July 2018.
4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council 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 believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
6. 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.

## **D. 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 the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

## **E. Subsequent Events**

1. Other than described in the financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

## **F. Other information**

1. We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement.
2. We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

## **G. Comparative information – comparative financial statements**

In connection with your audit of the comparative financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, we represent, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following:

1. There have been no significant errors or misstatements, or changes in accounting policies that would require a restatement of the amounts from the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 which are shown as comparative amounts in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018. Any differences in the comparative amounts from the amounts in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 are solely the result of reclassifications for comparative purposes.

## **H. Accounting Estimates**

Property, Plant and Equipment/Investment Properties – valuations and impairment  
Pensions Liability  
Provision for impairment of receivables

1. We believe that the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used to determine the accounting estimates have been consistently applied and are appropriate in the context of the CIPFA /LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.
2. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimates are complete and made in accordance with the CIPFA /LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.
3. We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimates and disclosures in the financial statements due to subsequent events.

**I. 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.

As approved by the Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2018.

**Signed on behalf of Fenland District Council:**

**Peter Carpenter**  
**(Interim Chief Finance Officer)**

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**Date:**

**Councillor John Clark**  
**(Chairman of Corporate Governance Committee)**

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**Date:**