

Copeland Borough Council

The Copeland Centre,
Catherine Street, Whitehaven,
Cumbria CA28 7SJ
Switchboard: 01946 852585
Direct Fax: 01946 598464



FINANCE & MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Head of Finance & Management Information Systems : Julie Crellin

Karen Murray
District Auditor
Audit Commission
2nd Floor Aspinall House
Aspinall Close
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6QQ

Dear Karen

Letter of Representation from Copeland Borough Council - Audit for the year ended 31 March 2008

I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief, having made appropriate enquiries of other Heads of Service, Corporate Directors and Officers of Copeland Borough Council, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008. All representations cover the Council's accounts included within the financial statements.

Compliance with the statutory authorities

I acknowledge my responsibility under the relevant statutory authorities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of Recommended Practice (the SORP), which present fairly the financial position and financial performance of the Council and for making accurate representations to you.

Corrected misstatements

I confirm that we have corrected all the identified misstatements in the financial statements and discussed them with those charged with governance within the Council.

Supporting records

All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Council have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information,

including minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Irregularities

I acknowledge my responsibility for the design and implementation of internal control systems to prevent and detect fraud or error.

There have been no:

- irregularities involving management or employees who have significant roles in the system of internal accounting control;
- irregularities involving other employees that could have a material effect on the financial statements; or
- communications from regulatory agencies concerning non-compliance with, or deficiencies on, financial reporting practices which could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I also confirm that I have disclosed:

- my knowledge of fraud, or suspected fraud, involving either management, employees who have significant roles in internal control or others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and
- my knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Law, regulations, contractual arrangements and codes of practice

There are no instances of non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice, likely to have a significant effect on the finances or operations of the Council.

The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual arrangements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Fair Values

I confirm the reasonableness of the significant assumptions within the financial statements. For the financial instruments assumptions in the Council accounts, I confirm:

- the appropriateness of the measurement method;
- the basis used by management to overcome the presumption under the financial reporting framework;
- the completeness and appropriateness under the financial reporting framework; and
- no subsequent events which require adjustment to the fair value measurement.

Assets

The following have been properly recorded and, where appropriate, adequately disclosed in the financial statements:

- losses arising from sale and purchase commitments;
- agreements & options to buy back assets previously sold; and
- assets pledged as collateral.

Compensating arrangements

There are formal set off and compensating balancing arrangements with our cash accounts. Except as disclosed in Note 29 we have no other lines of credit arrangements.

Contingent liabilities

There are no other contingent liabilities, other than those that have been properly recorded and disclosed in the financial statements. In particular:

- there is no significant pending or threatened litigation; and
- there are no material commitments or contractual issues, other than those already disclosed in the financial statements; and
- no financial guarantees have been given to third parties.

Related party transactions

I confirm the completeness of the information disclosed regarding the identification of related parties. The identity of, and balances and transactions with, related parties have been properly recorded and where appropriate, adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

Post balance sheet events

Since the date of approval of the financial statements by the Council, no additional significant post balance sheet events have occurred which would require additional adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

The Council has no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of Copeland Borough Council

I confirm that this letter has been discussed and agreed by the Audit Committee, on behalf of the Council, on 27 March 2009.

Name: Julie Crellin, BA (Hons), CPFA, MBA

Position: Head of Finance and Management Information Systems

Date: 27 March 2009