

Your Ref:

Our Ref: IN/KLP/060913

Please ask for: Mr Iain Newman

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Grant Thornton UK LLP
Colmore Plaza
20 Colmore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6AT

19th September 2013

Dear Sirs,

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2013

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2013 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain ("the Code") as adapted for International Financial Reporting Standards; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.
- ii We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- iv Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- v We are satisfied that the material judgements used by us in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code, and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. There are no further material judgements that need to be disclosed.

- vi We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme liabilities for IAS19 disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant retirement benefits have been identified and properly accounted for (including any arrangements that are statutory, contractual or implicit in the employer's actions, that arise in the UK or overseas, that are funded or unfunded).
- vii Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the code.
- viii All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the code requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- ix We have not adjusted the misstatements brought to our attention in the Audit Findings report, which are considered to be immaterial to the results of the Council and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- x We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xi We believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis, and that no further disclosures relating to the Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements
- xii We are satisfied that the assumptions made by us in estimating the unequal pay provision are soundly based, in accordance with the Code, and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xiii We have provided you with:
 - a. 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;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. unrestricted access to persons within the Council from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

- xiv We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xv All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xvi 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.
- xvii We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Council and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xviii We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Council's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- xix We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xx We have disclosed to you the entirety of the Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Annual Governance Statement

- xxi We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS

Directorate of Corporate Resources

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Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2013.

Signed on behalf of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

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Mr Iain Newman
Treasurer
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

.....
Councillor Jackie Cowell
Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Date 19 September 2013