



Lloyd Haynes
Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer)

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Azets Audit Services
Bank House
Cherry Street
Birmingham
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27 November 2024

Dear Sirs

East Staffordshire Borough Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

This representation letter is provided for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether East Staffordshire Borough Council's (the "Council") financial statements present a true and fair view, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the 2023/24 Code).

I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as I considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing myself:

Financial Statements

- i. I have fulfilled my responsibilities as Section 151 Officer for the preparation of the Council's financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the 2023/24 Code), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
- ii. I have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- iv. I have reviewed and approved all audit adjustments made in the financial statements. (See appendix 1 for details).

- v. I have reviewed and approved all disclosures made in the financial statements and I am not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with the requirements of UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2023/24 Code.
- vi. No uncorrected misstatements were identified during the audit. I confirm I have considered the impact on financial position of this as well as unadjusted misstatements brought forward from prior years. I am satisfied that those prior year unadjusted misstatements were resolved in 2023/24 and do not impact on the current year. (See appendix I for details).
- vii. 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. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- viii. I acknowledge my responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error, and I believe that I have appropriately fulfilled these responsibilities.
- ix. The methods, data and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework. I am satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- x. The Council has satisfactory title to all assets. The Council has no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2024 reflected in the financial statements.
- xi. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the Council has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- xii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of applicable law and accounting standards.
- xiii. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- xiv. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of UK adopted international accounting standards, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code.
- xv. I believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis. I do not expect the Council to demise in its current organisational form; however, my basis for going concern acknowledges that if that situation arose the services would be transferred to another body. I believe that no further disclosures relating to the

Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xvi. I have provided you with:
- a. access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Council's financial statements such as accounting records, and all other records requested;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. unrestricted access to persons within the Council (via remote arrangements where necessary), from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. I have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xviii. All transactions undertaken by the Council have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. I have disclosed to you the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xx. I have disclosed to you all information in relation to known fraud or suspected fraud that I am 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.
- xxi. I have disclosed to you all information in relation to instances of, or allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. I 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.
- xxiii. I have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.
- xxiv. I have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- xxv. I acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware. I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken in order to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

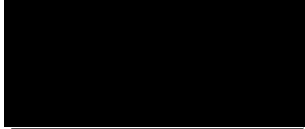
Management Commentary

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Council's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Corporate Governance Statement

xxvii. I am satisfied that the Corporate Governance Statement fairly reflects the Council’s risk assurance and governance framework and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks or weaknesses in governance or internal control that are not disclosed within the Statement.

Yours faithfully



Signature:.....

Name: Lloyd Haynes

Position: Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer)

Date...27 November 2024.....