

Our Ref: SBC(1112)/PW/NT
Your Ref

Grant Thornton UK LLP
Grant Thornton House
Melton Street
Euston Square
London
NW1 2EP

24 September 2012

Dear Sirs

Stevenage Borough Council
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2012

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Stevenage Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2012 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 Standards.

We confirm 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 and implementation of internal control to prevent and detect error and fraud.
- iv Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. We are satisfied that all material assets not subject to detailed valuation report in 2011/12 have been correctly recorded in the accounts using the appropriate valuation methodology.
- 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 the Code.
- viii All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- ix There are no unadjusted misstatements that were brought to our attention through the course of the audit, and the financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- x Except as stated in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the Council have been assigned, pledged or mortgaged there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- xi We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xii We believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the Council's needs. We 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.
- xiii We have considered the assets that have not been valued under the Modern Equivalent Asset methodology and are happy that there is not a material difference in valuation.

Information Provided

- xiv 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 entity from whom you determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xv 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.
- xvi We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

- xvii All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xviii We have disclosed to you our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
 - 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.
- xix We have disclosed to you our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xx 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.
- xxi We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Other statements

- xxii 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.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2012

Signed on behalf of Stevenage Borough Council.

Name	Name
Position	Position
Date	Date