

Issued by the Local Government Auditor
December 2010



CORE North East Partnership

Year to 31 March 2010

Introduction

The Department of the Environment may, with the consent of the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland, designate persons who are members of the staff of the Northern Ireland Audit Office as local government auditors (Article 4(3) of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005). For the year ended 31 March 2010 I have been designated the local government auditor for the Joint Committee.

As an auditor independent of the audited body I seek to examine that the body has managed its affairs having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and that public money is properly spent or in the case of income properly accounted for.

Status and Availability of this Annual Audit Letter

This Annual Audit Letter is issued under Article 13 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The Regulations require the local government body to publish this Annual Audit Letter as soon as reasonably possible. The local government auditor will place a copy of this Annual Audit Letter on the NIAO website at www.niauditoffice.gov.uk.

The Audit Letter is addressed to members and prepared for the sole use of the audited body; no responsibility is taken by auditors to any member or officer in their individual capacity, or to any third party.

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Audit of Accounts

- 1 The Statement of Accounts of the CORE joint committee have been prepared by Ballymena Borough Council in its role as lead council.
- 2 As your statutory appointed auditor I reported my audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts on 21 October 2010. I gave an unqualified opinion on these accounts. This is the last year of the CORE North East Partnership account and the Joint Committee has been wound up with no outstanding balances.
- 3 The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 requires that in auditing accounts a local government auditor must by examination of the accounts or otherwise satisfy himself that:
 - (a) they are prepared in accordance with regulations;
 - (b) they fully comply with the requirements of all other statutory provisions applicable to the accounts;
 - (c) proper practices have been observed in the compilation of the accounts; and
 - (d) the body whose accounts are being audited has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Matters arising from the final accounts audit

- 4 The published accounts are an essential means by which the Joint Committee reports its stewardship of the public funds at its disposal and its financial performance in the use of those resources. The accounts were authorised for issue by the Chief Executive on 18 October 2010. There were no adjustments made as a result of our audit findings.

Conclusion

- 5 This Audit Letter has been discussed and agreed with the Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council.
- 6 A positive and constructive approach has been taken to our audit. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the council's assistance and co-operation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Buchanan', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Buchanan

Local Government Auditor

14 December 2010