

Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland  
West Lothian Civic Centre,  
Howden South Road,  
Livingston,  
EH54 6FF

15 September 2016

## Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland

### 2015/16 Annual Audit Report

1. International Standard on Auditing (UK and Ireland) 260 (ISA 260) requires auditors to report specific matters arising from the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action. We are drawing to your attention matters for your consideration before the financial statements are approved and certified. We also present for your consideration our draft annual report on the 2015/16 audit which identifies significant findings from the financial statements audit. The section headed "Significant findings from the audit in accordance with ISA260" in the attached annual audit report sets out the issues identified. This report will be issued in final form after the financial statements have been certified
2. Our work on the financial statements is now substantially complete. Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of any outstanding matters and receipt of a revised set of financial statements for final review, we anticipate being able to issue an unqualified auditor's report on 26th September 2016 (the proposed report is attached at Appendix A). There are no anticipated modifications to the audit report.
3. In presenting this report to the Joint Committee, we seek confirmation from those charged with governance of any instances of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial statements; or material non-compliance with laws and regulations affecting the entity that should be brought to our attention.
4. We are required to report to those charged with governance all unadjusted misstatements which we have identified during the course of our audit, other than those of a trivial nature and request that these misstatements be corrected. We have no unadjusted misstatements to bring to your attention.
5. As part of the completion of our audit we seek written assurances from the Treasurer on aspects of the financial statements and judgements and estimates made. A draft letter of representation under ISA580 is attached at [Appendix B](#). This should be signed and returned by the Treasurer with the signed financial statements prior to the independent auditor's report being certified.

## Outstanding matters

6. There is one area where we still require additional information and this is identified below:
  - **ISA 580 - Letter of Representation:** The signed letter of representation is required prior to the auditor's certification of the financial statements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Crosbie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bruce Crosbie FCCA  
Senior Audit Manager  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
102 Westport  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

## **APPENDIX A: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland for the year ended 31 March 2016 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the 2015/16 Code).

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 125 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

#### **Respective responsibilities of the Treasurer and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Those standards require me to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the body and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Treasurer; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Accounts to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2015/16 Code of the state of the affairs of the body as at 31 March 2016 and of the income and expenditure of the body for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2015/16 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

#### **Opinion on other prescribed matters**

In my opinion:

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014; and
- the information given in Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Annual Governance Statement has not been prepared in accordance with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government; or
- there has been a failure to achieve a prescribed financial objective.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Bruce Crosbie FCCA  
Senior Audit Manager  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

September 2016

## APPENDIX B: Letter of Representation (ISA 580)

Bruce Crosbie FCCA  
Senior Audit Manager  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

26 September 2016

Dear Bruce,

### **Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland Annual Accounts 2015/16**

1. This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (the Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority, as at 31 March 2016 and its comprehensive net expenditure for the year then ended.
2. I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief, and having made appropriate enquiries of the Joint Committee, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2016.

### **General**

3. I acknowledge my responsibility and that of the Authority for the financial statements. All the accounting records requested have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All material agreements and transactions undertaken by the Authority have been properly reflected in the financial statements. All other records and information have been made available to you, including minutes of all management and other meetings.
4. The information given in the Annual Report to the financial statements, including the Management Commentary and Remuneration Report, presents a balanced picture of the Authority and is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Financial Reporting Framework**

5. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the 2015/16 Code), and in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and directions made thereunder by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, including all relevant presentation and disclosure requirements.
6. Disclosure has been made in the financial statements of all matters necessary for them to show a true and fair view of the transactions and state of affairs of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2016.

## **Accounting Policies & Estimates**

7. All material accounting policies adopted are as shown in the Statement of Accounting Policies included in the financial statements. The continuing appropriateness of these policies has been reviewed since the introduction of IAS 8 and on a regular basis thereafter, and takes account of the requirements set out in the 2015/16 Code.
8. The significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable and properly reflected in the financial statements. There are no changes in estimation techniques which should be disclosed due to their having a material impact on the accounting disclosures.

## **Going Concern**

9. I have assessed the Authority's ability to carry on as a going concern and have disclosed, in the financial statements, any material uncertainties that have arisen as a result.

## **Related Party Transactions**

10. All transactions with related parties have been disclosed in the financial statements. I have made available to you all the relevant information concerning such transactions, and I am not aware of any other matters that require disclosure in order to comply with the requirements of IAS24, as interpreted by the 2015/16 Code.

## **Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet**

11. There have been no material events since the date of the Balance Sheet which necessitate revision of the figures in the financial statements or notes thereto including contingent assets and liabilities.
12. Since the date of the Balance Sheet no events or transactions have occurred which, though properly excluded from the financial statements, are of such importance that they should be brought to your notice.

## **Corporate Governance**

13. I acknowledge as the Section 95 Officer, my responsibility for the corporate governance arrangements. I confirm that I have disclosed to the auditor all deficiencies in internal control of which I am aware.
14. The corporate governance arrangements have been reviewed and the disclosures I have made are in accordance with the 2015/16 Code. There have been no changes in the corporate governance arrangements or issues identified, since the 31 March 2016, which require disclosure.

## **Fraud**

15. I have considered the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. I have disclosed to the auditor any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements. There have been no irregularities involving management or employees who have a significant role in internal control or that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

## **Assets**

16. For the period ended 31 March 2016, the Authority did not own or mortgage any properties and did not hold any non-current assets. At 31 March 2016, the Authority had no obligations under finance lease.

### **Liabilities**

17. All liabilities have been provided for in the books of account, including the liabilities for all purchases to which title has passed prior to 31 March 2016.

### **Carrying Value of Assets and Liabilities**

18. The assets and liabilities have been recognised, measured, presented and disclosed in accordance with 2015/16 Code. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value of classification of the assets and liabilities within the financial statements.

### **Provisions and Contingent Liabilities**

19. There are no provisions that require to be made in the financial statements for any material liabilities which have resulted or may be expected to result, by legal action or otherwise, from events which had occurred by 31 March 2016 and of which the Authority could reasonably be expected to be aware. There are no contingent liabilities arising either under formal agreements or through informal undertakings requiring disclosure in the accounts.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Rowand MBA, CPFA  
Treasurer