

**Chief Finance Officer**

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Grant Thornton UK LLP  
2 Glass Wharf  
Bristol  
BS2 0EL

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Our ref:

Your ref:

Dear Sirs

**Bath and North East Somerset Council**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021**

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Bath and North East Somerset Council and its subsidiary undertakings, Aequus Construction Ltd. and Aequus Development Ltd., for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the group and Council financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and applicable law.

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 group and Council's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the group and Council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.

- iii The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the group and Council 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.
- iv We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuations of land and buildings and investment properties assets, the valuation of the defined benefit pension net liability, the provision for NNDR appeals, and the minimum revenue provision. We are 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. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. During the year we evaluated our estimation process for the valuation of car park assets within our land and buildings, for which a change in valuation basis was made for the majority of these assets, valuing these on a depreciated replacement cost basis instead of an existing use value basis. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits 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 post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii Except as disclosed in the group and Council financial statements:
  - a) there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
  - b) none of the assets of the group and 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.

- viii 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.
- ix All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The group and Council financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xii We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiii We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the group and Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that :
  - a) the nature of the group and Council means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease the group and Council operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
  - b) the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
  - c) the group and Council's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the group and Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

## 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 group and Council's 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) access to persons within the Council via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xv We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xvi All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements, except in those cases where the Council was acting as an agent in relation to Covid-19 Business Support Grants, for which disclosure has been included in the Narrative Report.
- xvii 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.
- xviii We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the group and 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.
- xix We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the 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 group and Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

- xxii We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

### **Annual Governance Statement**

- xxiii 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.

### **Narrative Report**

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

### **Approval**

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Corporate Audit Committee at its meeting on **15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

Yours faithfully

Name Andy Rothery

Position Director of Finance

Date 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 .....

Name Cllr Mark Elliott

Position Chair of Corporate Audit Committee

Date 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 .....