

Dyddiad/ Date	22 November 2024
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Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
1 Capital Quarter
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Representations regarding the 2023-24 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

- the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;
- our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
- our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements; and
- the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of the uncorrected misstatement identified during the audit is immaterial to the financial statements taken as a whole. The unadjusted misstatement is set out below:

- **Note 17 Creditors – Central Government bodies**
 - £390,000 of Welsh Government creditors are misclassified as creditors and should be treated as ear-marked reserves.
 - The balances relate to grant funding received in previous years that has not been completely spent but which does not have the requirement to be repaid to Welsh Government.
 - The misstatement is not considered material to the accounts and will be amended within the 2024-25 accounts.

- **Note 11 Property Plant and Equipment – Infrastructure Assets**

- £356,525 of costs relating to EV charges and solar panels are classified as infrastructure assets and given an estimated useful life of 40 years.
- These assets are considered to be equipment and should be included within vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment and given a more realistic estimate of useful life.
- The misstatement is not considered material to the accounts and will be amended within the 2024-25 accounts.
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Representations by the Governance and Audit Committee

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on 22 November 2024.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Director of Finance
S.151 Officer

Chair of the Governance and
Audit Committee

Date: 22/11/2024

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