

## **Independent Auditor's Report to Hatfield Town Council**

I have audited the statement of accounts on pages 16 to 19 and 31 to 35 which have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies applicable to local authorities as set out on pages 13 to 15.

This report is made solely to Hatfield Town Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 54 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies, prepared by the Audit Commission.

### **Respective Responsibilities of the Deputy Town Clerk and Auditor**

As described on page 37 the Deputy Town Clerk is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2003. My responsibilities, as independent auditor, are established by statute, the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and my profession's ethical guidance.

I report to you my opinion as to whether the statement of accounts present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure for the year.

I review whether the statement on internal control on page 36 reflects compliance with CIPFA's guidance 'The Statement on Internal Control in Local Government: Meeting the Requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003' published on 2 April 2004. I report if it does not comply with proper practices specified by CIPFA or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered whether the statement on internal control covers all risks and controls. I am also not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures. My review was not performed for any purpose connected with any specific transaction and should not be relied upon for any such purpose.

I read the other information published with the statement of accounts and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the statement of accounts.

### **Basis of audit opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission, which requires compliance with relevant auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the council in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

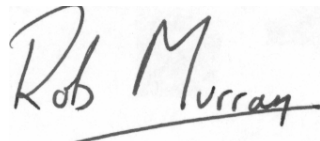
I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the statement of accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion, I evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion the statement of accounts present fairly the financial position of Hatfield Town Council as at 31 March 2004 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

### **Certificate**

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.



Signature: ...

Date: 30 November 2004

Name: Rob Murray.....  
District Auditor

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