

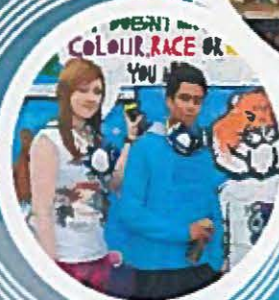


European Union
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PEACE III JOINT COMMITTEE

NORTH DOWN, ARDS AND DOWN COUNCILS



2015

Financial Statements

PEACE III Partnership
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Explanatory Foreword**Introduction**

The Joint Committee's financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2015 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

The financial statements are the Council's 'statement of accounts' as required by the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2006 and have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 (the Code) and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 14/15. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way the financial facts in relation to the Joint Committee.

This Statement of Accounts explains the Joint Committee's finances during the financial year 2014/15 and its financial position at the end of that year. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. North Down, Ards and Down Joint Committee does not have material interests in such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

Financial Report

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2015 have been prepared in line with The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in The United Kingdom 2014/15 (the Code) and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 14/15.

The financial statements explain the Joint Committee's finances during the financial year ended 31st March 2015 and its financial position at the end of that period.

The following statements provide further information:

- The Movement in Reserves Statement, as set out on page 17, shows the movement in the period on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee. The surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Joint Committee's services.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as set out on page 18, shows the income earned and the expenditure incurred during the period by the Joint Committee in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. This includes details of funding received from Government bodies and participating Councils, together with details of administrative expenditure incurred by the Joint Committee and financial assistance provided to beneficiaries.
- The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 19, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Joint Committee's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Joint Committee (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee.

- The Cash Flow Statement, as set out on page 20, shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the joint committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

For the year ended 31st March 2015 the Joint Committee accounted for grant income of £767,277, Council contributions of £22,500 and incurred total costs of £789,777. The financial activities of the Joint Committee are wholly funded by Government Bodies and the participating Councils, therefore resulting in a £nil surplus/deficit for the period.

Legislative Context for Preparation and Audit of the Financial Statements

The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Article 3, defines a joint committee of two or more councils to be a local government body and provides that:

The accounts of every local authority government body shall be:

- a) made up to the end of each financial year; and
- b) audited in accordance with this Part by a local government auditor designated by the Department, after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland.

Article 24 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 provides that the Department may issue regulations as to accounts and audit. In this regard the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 were made on 7 March 2006.

The Accounts Direction, issued by the Department of the Environment on 1st April 2015 under Regulation 4 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2006 requires the Joint Committee to prepare accounts. These financial statements cover the period from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 and have been prepared in compliance with the Direction.

Post Balance Sheet Events**Local Government Reform**

The administration of each of the 7 PEACE III bodies is established through a partnership agreement which establishes a lead council (one of the participant councils that formed the Joint Committee). The Chief Financial Officer of the lead council is responsible for the preparation, signing and dating of the statement of accounts for the Joint Committee. While the lead council will cease to exist on 31 March 2015, Regulation 9 of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides that its activities will be continued by the new council i.e. that council in which the lead council was a predecessor council. As such, for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, the Department of Environment Accounts Direction 2014/15: PEACE III Joint Committees will require that the Chief Financial Officer should be that of the new council. Regulation 1(2) of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 notes that, in relation to a new council, an existing council is a "predecessor council" if the whole or the major part of the district of the existing council is, in accordance with section 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as in force immediately prior to the making of the Local Government (Boundaries) (2008 Act) (Commencement, Transitional Provision and Savings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013, to be incorporated in the district of the new council.

From 1st April 2015, the Lead Council of the Joint Committee, North Down Borough Council will cease to exist and its functions will be transferred to the new Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Ards and North Down Borough Council combines the previous councils of North Down Borough Council and Ards Borough Council into one new body constituted under the framework established by the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

Statement of the Joint Committee's and the Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Joint Committee's Responsibilities

Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a Council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The Council shall designate an officer of the council as its Chief Financial Officer. Arrangements made by a council for the proper administration of its financial affairs shall be carried out under the supervision of its Financial Officer. The Joint Committee has adopted a similar arrangement and the Chief Financial Officer for the Administrative (Lead) Council undertakes equivalent duties for the Joint Committee.

Under Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 the Joint Committee is required by resolution to approve the accounts. The Department of the Environment, Circular LG 21/2015 advises that approval of the accounts, as required by Regulation 5, will be given by a resolution of a committee of the new council or the members of that new council meeting as a whole.

These accounts were approved by the Audit Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council on 22 June 2015.

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

Under Regulation 4(1) of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department of the Environment.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer is required to:-

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of the Environment including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom as amended and augmented from time to time as appropriate;
- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis; and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:-

- keep proper accounting records that are up-to-date; and
- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Governance Statement**Introduction**

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. The Joint Committee also has a duty under Local Government (Best Value) Act (NI) 2002 to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Joint Committee was established to develop and deliver a PEACE III Plan under the overall management of SEUPB. The Joint Committee has been formed pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and was formally established under the terms of a Consortium Agreement between:

- North Down Borough Council;
- Ards Borough Council; and
- Down District Council

The Joint Committee is made up of 9 Councillors (3 from each participant council) and a representative from the Social Partner Strand. A PEACE III Partnership, comprising 25 members – the 9 elected members plus 16 social partners – makes recommendations to the Joint Committee regarding the implementation of the PEACE III Plan for the tri-Council area.

Under the terms of a Partnership Agreement, North Down Borough Council was established as the Lead Council for the Joint Committee. The Agreement delegates administrative responsibility on North Down Borough Council (hereinafter referred to as the Lead Council), to fulfil the obligations arising from the Letter of Offer from SEUPB in relation to the delivery of the PEACE III Plan within the North Down, Ards & Down cluster area. This includes responsibility for ensuring the sound financial management of funds allocated to the cluster, for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the PEACE III Plan for the cluster and the preparation and submission of periodic progress reports, interim reports and final reports to the PEACE III Partnership, the Joint Committee and SEUPB (Managing Authority).

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Joint Committee is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The delivery and management of the PEACE III Programme concluded on 31 December 2014. The Joint Committee maintained its responsibilities for the preparation and review of the financial statements to 31 March 2015. Subsequently the Joint Committee ceased to exist, both as a result of Programme Closure and Local Government Reform on 31 March 2015.

In line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 (the Code) and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 14/15 responsibilities for the preparation, signing and approval of the financial statements for the Joint Committee for 2014/15 was reassigned to the Chief Financial Officer of the new Council Ards and North Down Borough Council.

The Joint Committee is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the Joint Committee meets the requirements of Regulation 2A of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Joint Committee is directed and controlled and the activities through which the Joint Committee accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Joint Committee to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Joint Committee's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place for the financial year ended 31st March 2015 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Governance Framework

This section provides a summary of the key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Joint Committee's governance arrangements. As noted on page 8, the governance arrangements for the Joint Committee are set out in the Consortium Agreement and are supported by the overall governance framework set by North Down Borough Council, in its role as Lead Council.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk for the Lead Council has responsibility for maintaining a system of sound internal controls and risk management processes to support the Joint Committee in the achievement of all conditions in the Letter of Offer, and for reviewing their effectiveness. The systems of controls are based on a continual process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the project objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

A copy of the full Governance Statement for North Down Borough Council is published in its own financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Overall control of the governance framework and system of internal controls is the responsibility of the Joint Committee.

Arrangements for identifying and communicating the Joint Committee's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users

A robust community consultation exercise supported the development of the Joint Committee's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes as set out in the PEACE III Strategy and Action Plan. A copy of this is available to the public on each of the participant Council's websites and hard copies are also made available on request.

Arrangements for developing, communicating and embedding codes of conduct, defining the standards of behaviour for members and staff

The Joint Committee has developed a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Declaration for the PEACE III Joint Committee and Partnership, which are reviewed annually, agreed and signed by all members and officers. The Lead Council has a wide range of policies and procedures, which are subject to on-going review and include the standards of behaviour expected from all employees. The Council has adopted the Local Government Staff Commission's Code of Conduct for Employees.

A voluntary Councillors' Code of Conduct, which had no statutory basis, existed up to 28 May 2014 on which date the statutory Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors came into effect.

Councillors also completed declarations of interest, which were included in the Council's published Register of Members' Interests.

Arrangements for reviewing and updating standing orders, standing financial instructions, a scheme of delegation and supporting procedure notes/manuals, which clearly define how decisions are taken and the processes and controls required to manage risks

The role of North Down Borough Council as Lead Council to the Joint Committee for PEACE III is conducted in accordance with its own system of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Policies and Procedures, as amended through guidance issued by SEUPB (Managing Authority). Any changes to these documents require formal approval by the Council.

In addition, the formal mechanisms by which the Joint Committee and Partnership regulates the conduct of its meetings are set out in the Consortium and Partnership Agreements. These arrangements are subject to review and update as necessary in response to the changing environment and the needs of the Joint Committee and SEUPB (Managing Authority).

The specified conditions of grant as outlined in the Letter of Offer have been addressed and adopted by the Joint Committee and Partnership.

During 2014/2015, the Audit Authority conducted a review under Article 16 of the European Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006. The review confirmed that the records, processes and controls that the Lead Council has in place are in compliance with Community and National rules and that the management of public funding is in accordance with Article 80 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The Partnership conducted its Annual General Meeting, including the election of office bearers, in January 2014.

To facilitate risk management, the Lead Council has developed Corporate Risk Registers together with Departmental Risk Registers, which are subject to formal review and update at least twice yearly. This approach includes risk management processes and internal controls to the Joint Committee to ensure proper stewardship of PEACE III resources.

Arrangements for undertaking the core functions of an Audit Committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities

The Lead Council has in place an Audit Committee whose overall purpose and objective is to assist Council in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Audit Committee, which meets at least four times each year, has responsibility for reviewing:

- The system of internal control and management of risks;
- The financial reporting process;
- The internal and external audit process;
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with its own Standing Orders, policies and procedures.

There is no requirement for the Joint Committee to have a separate Audit Committee. The Joint Committee follows the practices put in place by the Lead Council's Audit Committee .

The Lead Council's Audit Committee remit is not to act as the Audit Committee for the Joint Committee. Instead, it oversees the role of North Down Borough Council as Lead Council of the Joint Committee. All governance and audit issues are reported directly to the Joint Committee and the Chief Financial Officer of the Lead Council.

Arrangements for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful

The Joint Committee and SEUPB (Managing Authority) regularly review progress made and issues arising by way of periodic progress reports, interim reports and final reports. Improved processes regarding eligibility of expenditure, compliance with Letters of Offer and the issue of amendments have been reviewed, updated and implemented during the 2014/15 financial year.

The Lead Council retain a panel of specialist legal advisors to provide expertise, advice and guidance as required. In addition, recommendations as outlined in internal and external audit reports enable the Lead Council to ensure compliance is maintained.

Arrangements for whistle-blowing and for receiving and investigating complaints from the public

The Lead Council developed and adopted a Whistle blowing Policy which outlines the whistle-blowing arrangements through which serious concerns that are in the interest of the organisation, or the public interest, can be raised. The Policy sets out the arrangements where employees can make disclosures whilst remaining protected from action by their employer.

The handling of complaints is set out in the Council's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is published on the Council's website.

These arrangements extend to the role of North Down Borough Council as Lead Council to the Joint Committee.

Review of effectiveness

The Joint Committee has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Joint Committee's Officers, who have responsibility for supporting the Committee in the development and maintenance of the governance environment and also by recommendations made by auditors from the Managing Authority (SEUPB), the Audit Authority of the Department of Finance and Personnel and other external ..

Overall control of the governance framework and system of internal controls is the responsibility of the Joint Committee. Regular meetings, policy documents and periodic progress reports enable the Joint Committee to examine and evaluate the progress made and address issues affecting the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down Councils Cluster.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk for the Lead Council has responsibility for the preparation of this Annual Governance Statement, as well as the Lead Partner Assurance Statement for submission to SEUPB, as the Managing Authority. In preparing this statement, he has considered the governance framework and system of internal controls in place.

In undertaking this review account has been taken of Guidance on the Local (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 issued by the Department of the Environment in February 2008. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk of North Down Borough Council leads the Council's Senior Management Team to collectively have involvement in and oversight of the processes involved in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework. This includes the delivery of the Council's responsibilities as Lead Council for the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down Councils Cluster. Progress on the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down Councils Cluster and issues arising are reviewed and reported to the Lead Partner Council by way of Council reports.

In producing this statement, full regard has been made to North Down Borough Council's Corporate Risk Register and to Statements of Assurance provided by each Director to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk for the year ended 31st March 2015.

Internal Audit services are provided to the Lead Council by PricewaterhouseCoopers under contract. Internal Audit provides an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control. This extends to reviewing the arrangements in place for the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down Councils Cluster, which will be reviewed on a periodic basis as part of an on-going programme of work. Internal Audit reports any deficiencies in internal control to Senior Management Team whose responsibility it is to consider any recommendations made and to take necessary remedial action. The results of the work of Internal Audit are also reported to the Lead Council's Audit Committee at least four times each year to ensure that continuous improvements take place. These reports to Audit Committee include a follow-up report to ensure that actions previously agreed by the Senior Management Team are implemented on a timely basis.

During the 2014/15 financial year, six verification reviews of claimed expenditure were conducted by the Managing Authority (SEUPB) and one review was conducted, under Article 16 of the European Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006, by the Audit Authority of the Department of Finance and Personnel. During this period, verification shifted from on-site review to desktop verification, due to the continued 0% error rate, recorded by SEUPB.

The Lead Council undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006. This review proved satisfactory.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk for the Lead Council has advised the Joint Committee of the results and implications of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework.

On-going review and update of the governance framework and internal controls will ensure continual improvement and a robust governance framework.

Significant governance issues

There were no significant governance issues noted.

Signature 
Chief Financial Officer

Date 22 October 2015

Signature 
Chairman of the Audit Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council

Date 22 October 2015


Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that :-

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the financial period ended 31st March 2015 on pages 3 to 27 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department of the Environment and under the accounting policies set out on page 21.

- b) In my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

Signature


.....
Chief Financial Officer

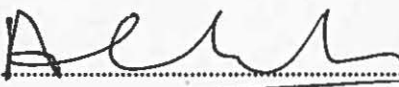
Date

22 October 2015

Audit Committee Approval of the Statement of Accounts

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Audit Committee on 22 June 2015 and have been subject to the amendments set out on Page 27.

Signature


.....
Chairman of the Audit Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council

Date

22 October 2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have audited the financial statements of North Down, Ards and Down Peace III Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2015 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

This report is made solely to the Members of Ards and North Down Borough Council in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities. Under the transitional arrangements set out in the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations Northern Ireland 2014, Ards and North Down Borough Council takes responsibility for the financial statements of North Down, Ards and Down Peace III Joint Committee.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and the independent auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Joint Committee's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year. My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff 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 North Down, Ards and Down Peace III Joint Committee's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by North Down, Ards and Down Peace III Joint Committee; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of 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 relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014-15, of the financial position of North Down, Ards and Down Peace

III Joint Committee as at 31 March 2015 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and

- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and the Department of the Environment directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

- In my opinion the information given in the Explanatory Foreword for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- The Annual Governance Statement:
 - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014-15;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department of the Environment;
 - is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the Statement of Accounts is not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of North Down, Ards and Down Peace III Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.



Louise Mason
Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

23 October 2015

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£	£	£
At 1st April 2013	-	-	-
Movement in reserves during the year			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-
At 31st March 2014	-	-	-
Movement in reserves during the year			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-
At 31st March 2015	-	-	-

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	Notes	2014/15 £	2013/14 £
Income			
Government Grant	2a/2b & 4	767,277	977,448
Participating Councils	3	22,500	30,000
Total Income		789,777	1,007,448
Expenditure			
Financial Assistance to Beneficiaries	2a/2b & 5	664,438	851,567
Staff Costs	7	92,263	114,807
Premises Costs		7,988	10,650
Supplies and Services		8,289	8,213
Travel and Subsistence Costs		2,287	2,861
Administration Costs		14,512	19,350
Total Expenditure		789,777	1,007,448
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		-	-

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
Long Term Assets		-	-
Short Term Investments		-	-
Inventories		-	-
Short Term Debtors	8	169,610	328,935
Cash and Cash Equivalents		-	-
Assets Held for Sale		-	-
Current Assets		169,610	328,935
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Short Term Borrowing		-	-
Short Term Creditors	9	169,610	328,935
Provisions		-	-
Current Liabilities		169,610	328,935
Long Term Liabilities		-	-
Net Assets		-	-
Usable Reserves		-	-
Unusable Reserves		-	-
Net Worth		-	-

Cash Flow Statement

		2014/15	2013/14
		£	£
Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		-	-
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	10	-	-
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		-	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period		-	-

1 Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Financial Statements summarise the Joint Committee's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at the end of 31st March 2015. The Joint Committee is required to prepare annual Financial Statements in a form directed by the Department of the Environment in accordance with regulations 4 (1) and (2) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/15 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effect of transactions to be reflected in the Financial Statements for the year in which those effects are experienced and not in the year in which the cash is actually received or paid. This ensures that provision has been made for known outstanding debtors and creditors at the year end, estimated amounts being used where actual figures are not available.

Government Grant

The Government Grant Income relates to Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB), this is detailed in Note 4 to the Financial Statements.

Value Added Tax

All expenditure and income is shown net of Value Added Tax, unless it is irrecoverable.

2a Segmental Report - Current Year

	Financial Assistance		Total £
	Management Costs Phase 2 £	Partner Delivery Phase 2 £	
Income from Participating Councils	22,500	-	22,500
Government Grants	102,839	664,438	767,277
Total Income	125,339	664,438	789,777
Financial Assistance to Beneficiaries	-	664,438	664,438
Staff Costs	92,263	-	92,263
Premises Costs	7,988	-	7,988
Supplies and Services	8,289	-	8,289
Travel and Subsistence Costs	2,287	-	2,287
Administration Costs	14,512	-	14,512
Total Expenditure	125,339	664,438	789,777
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-

2b Segmental Report - Prior Year

	Financial Assistance		Total £
	Management Costs Phase 2 £	Partner Delivery Phase 2 £	
Income from Participating Councils	30,000	-	30,000
Government Grants	125,881	851,567	977,448
Total Income	155,881	851,567	1,007,448
Financial Assistance to Beneficiaries	-	851,567	851,567
Staff Costs	114,807	-	114,807
Premises Costs	10,650	-	10,650
Supplies and Services	8,213	-	8,213
Travel and Subsistence Costs	2,861	-	2,861
Administration Costs	19,350	-	19,350
Total Expenditure	155,881	851,567	1,007,448
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-

3	Income from Participating Councils	2014/15	2013/14
		£	£
	Management Costs Phase 2	22,500	30,000
	Financial Assistance Partner Delivery Phase 2	0	0
		<u>22,500</u>	<u>30,000</u>
4	Government Grants	2014/15	2013/14
		£	£
	Management Costs Phase 2	102,839	125,881
	Financial Assistance Partner Delivery Phase 2	664,438	851,567
		<u>767,277</u>	<u>977,448</u>
5	Financial payments to beneficiaries	2014/15	2013/14
		£	£
	Management Costs Phase 2	-	-
	Financial Assistance Partner Delivery Phase 2	664,438	851,567
		<u>664,438</u>	<u>851,567</u>
6	External Audit Fees	2014/15	2013/14
		£	£
	External Audit Fees	3,500	3,500
	Other Fees	-	-
		<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>

7	Staff Costs		2014/15	2013/14
			£	£
	Salaries		72,960	89,601
	National Insurance		5,122	6,906
	Pension Costs		14,181	13,578
	Agency Staff Costs		-	4,722
			92,263	114,807
			2014/15	2013/14
			FTE	FTE
	Total Staff Numbers		4	4
			Actual	Actual
			Numbers	Numbers
	Full-time numbers employed		3	3
	Part-time numbers employed		1	1
	Agency Staff numbers		-	1
			4	5
8	Short Term Debtors		2015	2014
			£	£
	Government Departments		166,110	328,935
	Councils		3,500	-
	Prepayments		-	-
	Other		-	-
			169,610	328,935
9	Short Term Creditors		2015	2014
			£	£
	Councils		166,110	323,317
	Receipts in Advance		-	-
	Other		3,500	5,618
			169,610	328,935
10	Cash Flow Note – Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	Note	2014/15	2013/14
			£	£
	(Increase) / decrease in debtors	8	159,325	(61,739)
	Increase / (decrease) in creditors	9	(159,325)	61,739
			-	-

11 Related Party Transactions

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transactions exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Joint Committee or the Government of which it forms part.

A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Joint Committee and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Joint Committee.

In addition where the relationship with the Joint Committee and the entity is solely that of an Agency, these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

Transactions with related parties not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements are set out below, where a description of the nature and the amount of the transaction is as follows:

Members of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee paid grants of £ 664,438 (2013/14: £851,567) to seven partner organisations delivering peace-building initiatives on a Partner Delivery Project basis. Members of the Joint Committee had an interest in three organisations, these payments amounted to £248,485 paid to Ards Borough Council, £122,597 paid to North Down Borough Council and £93,578 paid to Down District Council. All grants were made with proper consideration of declaration of interests.

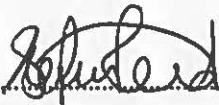
Accounts Authorised for the Issue Certificate

In accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS 10) this Statement of Accounts which contains a number of minor amendments which are not material from the Accounts approved on 22 June 2015 is at today's date hereby authorised for issue.

IAS 10 sets out

- The period during which an entity should adjust its financial statements for events after the balance sheet date as being the period between the date the financial statements were prepared and the date of this authorisation; and
- In the event of adjustments the disclosures that should be made.

Signed


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Chief Financial Officer

Dated:

23 October 2015
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