

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN ORGANISATION FOR ACTION IN RURAL AREAS JOINT COMMITTEE**

I have audited the statement of accounts of the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2011 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The statement of accounts comprises the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and related notes. The statement of accounts has been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

This report is made solely to the Members of the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities issued by the Chief Local Government Auditor.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and the independent auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Joint Committee's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts and for being satisfied that it gives 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 statement of accounts in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice issued by the Chief Local Government Auditor. 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 statement of accounts**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the statement of accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee; and the overall presentation of the statement of accounts. In addition I read all the financial and non financial information in the Explanatory Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited statement of accounts. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion the statement of accounts gives a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2010-11, the financial position of the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee as at 31 March 2011 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

### **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 2010-11,
  - 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 the accounts of the Southern Organisation in Rural Areas Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice issued by the Chief Local Government Auditor.



*Louise Mason*

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28 October 2011