

Mark Sanders MBA, BSc(Hons)
Chief Executive

Our Ref MO/EF
Your Ref
Date 16 September 2009
Please ask for Mike Owen
Direct Line 0161 253 5002
Direct Fax 0161 253 6091
E-mail m.a.owen@bury.gov.uk

Finance & E-Government
Division

Mike Owen CPFA
Director of Finance & E-Government

KPMG LLP
St. James' Square
MANCHESTER
M2 6DS

Dear KPMG LLP

We understand that auditing standards require you to obtain representations from management on certain matters material to your opinion. Accordingly we confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made appropriate enquiries of other members of the Authority, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the financial statements for Bury Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2009.

All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and the full effect of all the transactions undertaken by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council has been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records in accordance with agreements, including side agreements, amendments and oral agreements.

All other records and related information, including minutes of all management and Board meetings, have been made available to you.

We confirm that we have disclosed all material related party transactions relevant to the Authority and that we are not aware of any other such matters required to be disclosed in the financial statements, whether under FRS 8 or other requirements.

We confirm that we are not aware of any actual or potential non-compliance with laws and regulations that would have had a material effect on the ability of the Authority to conduct its business and therefore on the results and financial position to be disclosed in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009.

We acknowledge that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") and wider UK accounting standards. We have considered and approved the financial statements.

We confirm that we:

understand that the term "fraud" includes misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets. Misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting involve intentional misstatements or omissions of amount or disclosures in financial statements to deceive financial statement users. Misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets involve the theft of an entity's assets, often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorisation;

are responsible for the design and implementation of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error;

have disclosed to you our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving:

- management;
- employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
- others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

have disclosed to you our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others; and

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.

We confirm that the presentation and disclosure of the fair value measurements of material assets, liabilities and components of equity are in accordance with applicable reporting standards. The amounts disclosed represent our best estimate of fair value of assets and liabilities required to be disclosed by these standards. The measurement methods and significant assumptions used in determining fair value have been applied on a consistent basis, are reasonable and they appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the Authority where relevant to the fair value measurements or disclosures.

We confirm that there are no other contingent liabilities, other than those that have been properly recorded and disclosed in the financial statements. In particular:

there is no significant pending or threatened litigation, other than that already disclosed in the financial statements; and

there are no material commitments or contractual issues, other than those already disclosed in the financial statements.

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With reference to the specific issues on which you have requested assurances from Members, we confirm that:

For 2008/09 we consider that sufficient and appropriate consideration has been given to potential impairments of the assets included in the accounts in light of the current macro economic climate and that, where any such impairment has been identified, it is reflected accordingly in the accounts. This includes compliance with the accounting policy for periodic revaluation of assets (under FRS 15), as well as the need for management to undertake a review of assets to determine whether there is any impairment to their value in accordance with FRS 11.

Finally, no additional significant post balance sheet events have occurred that would require additional adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements, over and above those events already disclosed.

This letter was tabled at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 22 September 2009.

Yours faithfully

Mike Owen
Director of Finance and E-Government