

# **Report of Audit Committee on Statutory Audit Reports for the Year 2013**

**To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City & County Council**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The Local Government Audit Service has produced Statutory Audit Reports for the year ended 31st December 2013 in respect of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council. In accordance with Section 121(3) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014) the Audit Committee must review these reports, assess any action taken by the Chief Executive in response to the reports, and bring its findings to the Council.

At a meeting held on 11th February 2015 the Audit Committee met with the Chief Executive and the Local Government Auditors, Anne Halion and John Collins, and reviewed the Statutory Audit Reports for the year ended 31st December 2013.

The Committee welcomed the Auditors' opinion on the AFS which is unqualified in both cases and the assurance from the Auditor that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.

The Committee noted the Auditors' concern regarding the delay in presenting the Annual Financial Statement to the Members and also noted the Chief Executive's assurance that the delay was primarily caused by the merger and will not be an issue in the future.

The Committee discussed the area of Governance with the Auditors and the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council has tendered for internal audit services and that an appointment is imminent. This was welcomed by the Committee and the Auditors.

The Audit Committee noted the contents of the Statutory Audit Reports for Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013. It also noted Management's response to the issues raised and commitments made as to future actions as recorded in the Audit Reports.

The Committee discussed areas of concern raised by the Auditors. The Committee was satisfied with the commitment of Management regarding actions and improvements that are needed. In order to assess the effectiveness of the actions and improvements by Management, the Committee agreed that a number of the concerns raised by the Auditors will be included in the annual work programme of the Committee.

The area of procurement was discussed in detail and it was noted that, following the merger, the value of spend by the Council had increased. It was agreed that the Internal Auditors would be asked to include procurement in the internal audit plan for 2015.

The Audit Committee noted that no concerns had been raised in relation to loss of funds or value-for-money; nor was there any issue raised that required immediate specific action on the part of the Audit Committee.

**Is mise, le meas,**

**John Field  
Chairperson of the Audit Committee**

**18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.**