

Draft Report to those charged with Governance

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
2024-25

Date of Issue
12/09/2025

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We have prepared this report for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's sole use. You must not disclose it to any third party, quote or refer to it, without our written consent and we assume no responsibility to any other person.

1. Key Messages

This report summarises the key matters from our audit of the 2024-25 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council financial statements which we must report to the Audit Committee, as those charged with governance. We would like to thank the Chief Financial Officer and his staff for their assistance during the audit process.

Proposed Audit Opinion

It is proposed that the Local Government Auditor (LGA) will report on the 2024-25 financial statements with an unqualified audit opinion, without modification.

Proposed Audit Certificate

It is also proposed that, the Local Government Auditor will certify completion of the audit of accounts of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice. The audit certificate closes the audit and marks the point when the Local Government Auditor's statutory responsibilities in respect of the audit of the accounts for the period covered by the certificate have been discharged.

The Audit Certificate is included at [Appendix Two](#).

Misstatements

Financial Statement Adjustments

There were no significant adjustments made to the financial statements as a result of the audit process.

Uncorrected misstatements

There were no uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit process.

Audit Findings

During the audit we reviewed internal controls; accounting systems; and procedures to the extent considered necessary for the effective performance of the audit. We have not identified any priority one recommendations in relation to the internal control environment.

Full details of findings are included at [Findings from the Audit](#).

Proper Arrangements

Under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, the Local Government Auditor should be satisfied that a Council has in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. A questionnaire was issued and completed by the Council. We have reviewed the responses and the supporting documentation and are satisfied overall that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Status of the Audit

The following matters are outstanding:

- Documentation on PPE revaluation
- Receipt of Capitalisation policy
- NIAO internal review processes

Following completion of outstanding issues, we will request the Chief Financial Officer signs the Statement of Accounts together with a letter of representation, the proposed wording of which is included at [Appendix One](#).

The total audit fee charged will be in line with that set out in our Audit Strategy.

Independence

We consider that we comply with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) Ethical Standard and that, in our professional judgment, we are independent and our objectivity is not compromised.

Management of information and personal data

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is required to comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) in the handling and storage of personal data. Those Charged with Governance should ensure they have made sufficient enquiries of management to form a view on whether there were any significant specific data incidents which should be disclosed in the Governance Statement. We are unaware of any data handling incidents during the year. Confirmation to this effect has been sought within the letter of representation included at [Appendix One](#).

During the course of our audit we have access to personal data to support our audit testing. We have established processes to hold this data securely within encrypted files and to destroy it where relevant at the conclusion of our audit. We can confirm that we have discharged those responsibilities communicated to you in accordance with the requirements of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

Performance Improvement

The outcome from our work in respect of Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 on Performance Improvement will be reported separately to those charged with governance, as set out in the timetable in the 2024-25 Audit Strategy.

Actions for the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee should:

- Review the findings set out in this report, including the draft letter of representation and audit certificate at Appendices one and two respectively.

2. Audit Scope

We have completed our audit of the 2024-25 financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs) issued by the Financial Reporting Council; with Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'; and with the Audit Strategy presented to the Audit Committee in March 2025.

There are no new matters to communicate concerning the planned scope and timing of the audit.

3. Significant Risks

The significant risks identified in our Audit Strategy have been addressed as follows:

Significant Risk 1

Management override of controls

Under ISA (UK) 240, there is a presumed significant risk of material misstatement due to fraud through management override of controls.

Audit Response

- Test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements;
 - Review accounting estimates for biases and evaluate whether the circumstances producing the bias, if any, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud;
 - Consider significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual.
-

Outcome

No significant issues in relation to management override of controls were identified.

Significant Risk 2

Procurement

In previous audits we raised issues in relation to procurement. We noted in the case of highest paid supplier testing that for 3 out of 5 tested we were unable to confirm that the contracts were awarded in compliance with the Council's procurement policy or that the process was equitable, legal and provided value for money.

Audit Response

We will:

- consider the processes and procedures in place around procurement; and
 - review a sample of contracts awarded in year by the Council.
-

Outcome

See Finding 1 in Section 4 below in relation to the outcome of our testing on the significant risk 'Procurement'.

Significant Risk 3

Management of Councils Land and Buildings

In prior years, issues have been raised in relation to the timeliness of Council not renewing leases or conducting rent reviews on leases which have expired in relation to Commercial Leases. We note rent reviews for non-commercial leases were due to commence during 2023-24, however clarification and agreement from the Department was needed on whether Council should instruct a valuer to carry out rental valuations in light of value for money.

We note also that timely implementation of audit and other recommendations should be carried out.

Audit Response

- review Council's leases to ensure appropriate rent reviews have been completed and leases have been renewed on a timely basis;
 - review Council's Land and Property policies and procedures in light of Extraordinary Audit findings;
 - review a sample of land and building disposals during the financial year.
-

Outcome

We have not identified any issues from our audit testing in 2024-25 in relation to the management of Councils land and buildings.

No additional significant risks were identified during our audit fieldwork.

4. Findings from the Audit

Financial Reporting

As part of our audit, we evaluate the qualitative aspects of accounting practices and financial reporting. In this section we draw to your attention any significant changes or issues in respect of accounting policies; accounting estimates; and financial statement disclosures.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has processes in place for the production of the accounts and continue to produce good quality supporting working papers. Officers dealt efficiently with audit queries, effectively prioritising them, and the audit process has been completed within the planned timescales.

Accounting Policies

Apart from an amendment to the leases note for the introduction of IFRS 16, the accounting policies adopted by the Council have not changed or altered since the prior year financial statements. Our substantive testing has provided us with sufficient assurance over the accuracy of the estimates adopted.

Accounting Estimates

We examined the appropriateness of accounting estimates and judgements and are content with the consistency of assumptions and the degree of prudence reflected in the recorded amounts.

Financial Statement Disclosures

We have made a number of suggestions to improve narrative disclosures and to ensure completeness of the disclosures required under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and other relevant guidance.

Going Concern

No events or conditions were identified from our audit work that cast significant doubt about Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting.

Narrative Report

The Narrative Report was considered to be consistent with our understanding of the business and was in line with the other information provided in the financial statements.

Remuneration Report

We suggested a number of changes in relation to disclosures within the Remuneration Report to ensure that the parts of the Remuneration Report to be audited were properly prepared in accordance with Department for Communities (DfC) directions issued under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Governance Statement

Our review of the Governance Statement confirmed that it complies with the Code of Practice and the Department for Communities' Accounts Direction. We provided management with a number of observations and suggested changes to improve the narrative and completeness of disclosures within the Governance Statement.

Legality, Propriety and Losses

We found no issues in relation to illegality, impropriety or losses during our audit.

Internal Control

No material weaknesses in the design and implementation of the Council's internal control systems have come to our attention during the audit. However, certain internal control weaknesses were identified during audit testing and have been detailed below.

Related Parties

No significant matters were arising during the audit in connection with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's related parties.

Audit Recommendations

This section outline the findings arising from our audit, as well as management's response and target date for implementation. Our findings are defined as:

- **Priority 1** – significant issues for the attention of senior management which may have the potential to result in material weakness in internal control.
 - **Priority 2** – important issues to be addressed by management in their areas of responsibility.
 - **Priority 3** – issues of a more minor nature which represent best practice.
-

Finding 1

Procurement

Highest paid suppliers

We obtained a listing of the highest paid suppliers in 2024-25 and selected a random sample of 5 for which we requested the contract procurement documentation for each.

In 4 cases the Council were unable to provide audit with declaration of interest forms signed by the evaluation panel. It was noted by audit that the procurement manager was not involved in the awarding of these contracts and therefore the procurement documentation had to be obtained from service managers.

Priority Rating

2

Recommendation

We recommend that the Council ensure that declarations of independence are completed for all procurement exercises, they should also ensure that the procurement officer is involved in large procurement exercises, and all documentation is retained.

Management Response (including target date)

[text]

Finding 2

Loan Agreements with GB Councils and Banks

The Council continue to make loans to other GB Councils and banks using brokers to facilitate these loans. Our review identified that while the risk of default is considered to be low by the Council, and that there has been no default on the loans to date, there is currently no written agreements in place between Council and the borrower. We did note there was trade confirmations from the broker, but this makes it clear the transaction is subject to the terms agreed between the counterparties alone.

As part of audit fieldwork, we received confirmation of the loans, which total £22m. We also note that enhanced disclosure is included in the credit risk assessment in the accounts and the letter of representation.

Priority Rating

2

Recommendation

We recommend that the Council considers the adequacy of the loan arrangements and considers whether a formal agreement or letter of comfort is needed.

Management Response (including target date)

[text]

Finding 3

Assets not revalued at year end

We note from a review of the fixed asset register and revaluations in year, that 28 assets with a Net Book Value of £4.8m have been omitted from the LPS valuation exercise at 31 March 2025.

Priority Rating

2

Recommendation

We recommend that a review exercise is completed by the Council to ensure that all relevant assets are reported to LPS and included within the LPS valuation accordingly.

Management Response (including target date)

[text]

Finding 4

Craigahulliar Provision

It has been noted from review of provisions, that the Craigahulliar provision is based on a report from the Councils expert dating 2019, which was before the landfill site closed.

Whilst it is noted the Council have increased the provision for amounts not included within the report, it is considered by audit that the Council should request an updated report from their expert to ensure that the provision is still adequate.

Priority Rating

2

Recommendation

We recommend that Council obtains a revised management experts report to ensure that the provision for the landfill site is adequate.

Management Response (including target date)

[text]

Finding 5

IT Health Checks

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council have not recently carried out any Penetration and Vulnerability testing (IT Health Checks) on their line of business applications.

Priority Rating

2

Recommendation

We recommend that the Council arrange IT Health checks in respect of their Line of Business applications as a priority.

Management Response (including target date)

[text]

A review of management's implementation of priority one recommendations made in our prior year Report to those charged with Governance is set out at [Appendix Three](#).

Proper Arrangements

Under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, the Local Government Auditor should be satisfied that a Council has in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are satisfied that the Council has in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

5. Misstatements

Adjusted misstatements

There were no significant adjustments made to the financial statements as a result of the audit process.

Uncorrected misstatements

There were no uncorrected misstatements identified as a result of the audit process.

Appendix One – Letter of Representation

[Client Letterhead]

The Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

LETTER OF REPRESENTATION: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
31 March 2025

As Chief Financial Officer of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, I have fulfilled my responsibility for preparing accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs, total income and expenditure, cash flows, and movements in reserves; and the related notes of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025.

In preparing the accounts, I was required to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the Department for Communities (DfC), including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply appropriate accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and disclosed and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- make an assessment that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is a going concern and will continue to be in operation throughout the next year; and ensure that this has been appropriately disclosed in the financial statements.

I confirm that for the financial year ended 31 March 2025:

- having considered and enquired as to that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's compliance with law and regulations, I am not aware of any actual or potential non-compliance that could have a material effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its

business or on the results and Balance Sheet disclosed in the accounts;

- all accounting records have been provided to you for the purpose of your audit and all transactions undertaken by that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have been properly recorded and reflected in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management meetings which you have requested have been supplied to you; and
- the information provided regarding the identification of related parties is complete; and the related party disclosures in the financial statements are adequate.

All material accounting policies as adopted are detailed in note 1 to the accounts.

Internal Control

I have fulfilled my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect error and I have disclosed to you the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements could be materially misstated.

I confirm that I have reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control and that the disclosures I have made are in accordance with DoF guidance on the Governance Statement.

FRAUD

I have fulfilled my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud and I have disclosed to you the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements could be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

I am not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and no allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements has been communicated to me by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

ASSETS

General

All assets included in the Balance Sheet were in existence at the reporting period date and owned by that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and free from any lien, encumbrance or charge, except as disclosed in the accounts. The Balance Sheet includes all tangible assets owned by the Council.

Non Current Assets

All assets capable of being used for a period exceeding one year are capitalised. Land and Property assets are revalued on a 5 year rolling basis with 20% of assets being subject to a physical valuation each year and ensuring that the remaining 80% does not differ materially by providing up to date revaluations at intervals of no more than 5 years. Depreciation is calculated to reduce the net book amount of each asset to its estimated residual value by the end of its estimated useful life in the Council's operations.

Other Current Assets

On realisation in the ordinary course of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's operations the other current assets in the Balance Sheet are expected to produce at least the amounts at which they are stated. Adequate provision has been made against all amounts owing to the Council which are known, or may be expected, to be irrecoverable.

LIABILITIES

General

All liabilities have been recorded in the Balance Sheet.

There were no significant losses in the year and no provisions for losses were required at the year end.

All litigation and claims have been disclosed to you and correctly accounted for.

Provisions

Provision is made in the financial statements for:

- Landfill provision of £10.1 million

I am content that the landfill provision of £10.1 million is a reliable estimate, based on current information of the estimated capping and closure costs for the three landfill sites.

- **Crosstagherty**

As regards Crosstagherty there are no major pollution concerns. I consider the period of 30 years for which the provision has been made for aftercare to be appropriate and represents management's best estimate.

- **Drumaduff**

Whilst there is a lagoon with leachate at Drumaduff, due to the existence of a natural weed-bed there are currently no major pollution concerns. Further negotiations are on-going in respect of obtaining ownership of this site and we are content that the estimated cost of back rent due of £265,400 is reasonable. I consider the period of 30 years for which the provision has been made for aftercare to be appropriate and represents management's best estimate. I consider that the costs of vesting of the land on which the landfill is sited will not be material.

- **Craigahulliar**

I consider the period of 60 years for which the provision has been made for aftercare to be appropriate and represents management's best estimate.

Contingent Liabilities

There are a number of legal claims or potential claims against the Council the outcome of which cannot at present be estimated with certainty. Full provision is made in the financial statements for all liabilities which are expected to materialise.

I am not aware of any pending litigation which may result in significant loss to the Council, and I am not aware of any action which is or may be brought against the Council under the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Actuarial Valuation of the Council's Pension Scheme Liability

The overall net pension liability as at 31 March 2025 is £294k. This represents the liability for the unfunded part of the pension scheme.

To comply with accounting standards, the net pension asset of £28,569k as at 31 March 2025, for the funded part of the pension scheme, has been restricted to the asset ceiling of nil. The loss in value has been recognised as adjustments within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Asset/ Liability) (2024-25 (£501k); 2023-24 (£2,650k)).

Having made appropriate enquiries, I am satisfied with the appropriateness of the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of the Council's share of the valuation of the pension scheme liability.

Furthermore, I confirm that:

- All significant retirement benefits, including any arrangements that are implicit in the employer's actions, have been identified and properly accounted for; and
- All settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

Results

Except as disclosed in the accounts, the results for the year were not materially affected by transactions of a sort not usually undertaken by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, or circumstances of an exceptional or non-recurring nature.

Uncorrected Misstatements

No uncorrected misstatements have been brought to my attention.

Events after the Reporting Period

Except as disclosed in the accounts, there have been no material changes since the reporting period date affecting liabilities and commitments, and no events or transactions have occurred which, though properly excluded from the accounts, are of such importance that they should have been brought to notice.

Accounting Estimates

The methods, significant assumptions and the data used in making the accounting estimates and the related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the financial reporting framework.

Management of Personal Data

Except as disclosed in the Governance Statement, there have been no personal data related incidents in 2024-25 which are required to be reported.

Investments

The Council uses brokers (King & Shaxson and ICAP) to facilitate the arrangement of direct loan transactions with other UK local authorities and banks. The value of these loans within the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts totals £22,000,000. There is no formal documented agreement between the Council and the borrowing Council/bank. The Council has assessed the risk of these loans as low and does not foresee any issue with recoverability.

David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
September 2025

Appendix Two – Audit Certificate

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom supported by UK adopted international accounting standards.

I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

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 2024-25, of the financial position of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council as at 31 March 2025 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities’ directions issued thereunder.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate. My staff and I are independent of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standard and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The going concern basis of accounting for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, which require entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts other than the financial statements, the parts of the Remuneration Report described in that report as having been audited, and my audit certificate and report. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information included in the Statement of Accounts. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities' directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Statement of Accounts.

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 2024-25;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department for Communities;
 - 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 and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
 - I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit, or
- I issue a report in the public interest under Article 9 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; or
- I designate under Article 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 any recommendation made to the Council; or

- I exercise the other special powers of the auditor under Article 19 to 21 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Chief Financial Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Financial Officer anticipates that the services provided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2025;
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's compliance with laws and regulations;
- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in posting journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- documenting and evaluating the design and implementation of internal controls in place to mitigate risk of material misstatement due to fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate;
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;

- assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

This report is made solely to the Members of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Local Government Auditor and Local Government Bodies.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

Colette Kane
Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

September 2025

Appendix Three – Implementation of Prior Year Priority One Recommendations

Recommendation 1 **Procurement**

Highest Paid Suppliers

Whilst we are aware there is an ongoing investigation into the awarding of some contracts, the Council should carry out its own review of its existing contracts to identify any where there is a lack of evidence that proper procurement procedures were followed.

The Council should ensure that, going forward, they comply with all the requirements set out within their Procurement Policy and that the Policy complies with best practice and all legislative/regulatory requirements.

To demonstrate compliance with the Policy, consideration should be given to producing a checklist of minimum documentation required in all procurement exercises which should be provided along with the tender evaluation report to those approving contracts. These checklists should then be subject to an independent, annual drill down exercise by either the Procurement Officer or Internal Audit, in order to provide Council with additional assurance that procurement procedures per the Policy, including evidential documentation requirements, are being complied with.

Status **Not cleared**

Our 2024-25 audit identified some issues in relation to Council's procurement – see Finding 1 in Section 4.
