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Argyll and Bute Council

17 September 2017

# Charitable Trusts administered by Argyll and Bute Council Audit of 2017/18 annual report and financial statements

#### Independent auditor's report

- An audit is required for all registered charities where the local authority is the sole trustee, irrespective of the size of the charity. This is due to the interaction of section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The auditor of Argyll and Bute Council, Audit Scotland, has been appointed as the auditor of the relevant trusts.
- 2. This report sets out for the Trustees' consideration the matters arising from the audit of the 2017/18 annual report and financial statements that require to be reported under ISA 260. We are drawing to your attention those matters we think are worthy of note, so that you can consider them before the financial statements are approved and certified. An audit of the financial statements is not designed to identify all matters that may be relevant to those charged with governance. It is the auditor's responsibility to form and express an opinion on the financial statements prepared by management. However, this does not relieve management of their responsibilities in this respect. This report has been prepared for the use of Argyll and Bute Council, as the sole trustees of the registered charitable trusts listed at Appendix A, and no responsibility to any third party is accepted.
- 3. Our audit work on the 2017/18 financial statements is now substantially complete. Subject to receipt of revised sets of financial statements for final review, we anticipate being able to issue unqualified audit opinions in the independent auditor's reports for the eight charitable trusts by 28 September 2018 (the proposed reports are attached at Appendices B, C and D).
- 4. A few presentational adjustments were identified within the financial statements during the course of our audit. These were discussed with senior finance officers who agreed to amend the unaudited financial statements.
- 5. As in previous years, the council has decided not to recharge any administration costs to the trusts in 2017/18. This policy is disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts for all trusts. As a result, the full costs incurred in administering the trusts are not known by the trustees.

#### **Unadjusted misstatements**

6. We also report to those charged with governance all unadjusted misstatements which we have identified during our audit, other than those of a trivial nature and request that these misstatements be corrected. There were no unadjusted misstatements in the audit of the charitable trusts' financial statements.

#### Fraud, subsequent events and compliance with laws and regulations

7. In presenting this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee we seek confirmation from those charged with governance of any instances of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; any subsequent events that have occurred since the date of the financial statements; or material non-compliance with laws and regulations affecting the entity that should be brought to our attention.

#### **Representations from Section 95 Officer**

- 8. As part of the completion of our audit, we are seeking written representations from the Section 95 Officer on aspects of the financial statements, including the judgements and estimates made.
- 9. A draft letter of representation is attached at Appendix E. This should be signed and returned to us by the Section 95 Officer with the signed annual report and financial statements prior to the independent auditor's reports being certified.

#### Significant findings from the audit

- 10. International Standard on Auditing 260 (UK) requires us to communicate significant findings from the audit to those charged with governance. In our view, the following issues require to be brought to your attention regarding the appropriateness of accounting policies or accounting estimates and judgements, the timing of transactions, the existence of material unusual transactions or the potential effect on the financial statements of any uncertainties.
- 11. Baillie Gillies Bequest; Kidston Park Trust; Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry; Miss Annie Dickson Burgh Bequest; Logie Baird Prize Fund; McCaig Trust: As we reported in the previous years, there has been little or no expenditure incurred by these trusts in the last few years. As the majority of the trusts are dormant, there is a risk that the trustees are not fulfilling the terms of the trust deeds and there may be a perception that these trusts are not being run for the public benefit. Trustees should consider whether these are active funds, or whether they should enter into discussions with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to reorganise or wind up these trusts if they are not meeting their objectives. This exercise should be completed as soon as possible.

**Resolution:** Argyll and Bute Council is continuing to conduct a review of all its charitable trusts.

12. Baillie Gillies Bequest; Kidston Park Trust; Miss Annie Dickson Burgh Bequest; Logie Baird Prize Fund; Norman Stewart Institute Trust; Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry; McCaig Trust; County of Argyll Educational Trust: In the main, trust assets are either cash balances with Argyll and Bute Council loans fund or bond investments. The return on the investment in the council's loans fund was 0.22% for 2017/18. Notwithstanding the low rates of return generally available, the rate of return appears to be considerably less than that available in the market. While we acknowledge that there is a cost involved in an actively managed portfolio, trustees should assure themselves by means of a costs benefits analysis that they are obtaining, commensurate with risk, the best returns possible.

<b>Resolution:</b> An investment manager should be used to trust funds.	seek to obtain a higher rate of return for

#### Appendix A - Registered Charitable Trusts of Argyll and Bute Council

The following is the list of Trusts which are administered by Argyll and Bute Council:

- Baillie Gillies Bequest (Registered Charity SC013578)
- Kidston Park (Registered Charity SC013600)
- Miss Annie Dickson Bequest (Registered Charity SC018697)
- Logie Baird Prize Fund (Registered Charity SC018698)
- McCaig Trust (Registered Charity SC019599)
- Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry (Registered Charity SC019607)
- County of Argyll Educational Trust Scheme 1960 (Registered Charity SC020382)
- Oban Common Good Fund (Registered Charity SC021328)

# APPENDIX B: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report (McCaig Trust and County of Argyll Educational Trust Scheme 1960)

## Independent auditor's report to the trustees of [insert name of charity] and the Accounts Commission

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of [insert name of charity] for the year ended 31 March 2018 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties
  that may cast significant doubt about ability of the charity to continue to adopt the going concern
  basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial
  statements are authorised for issue.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity'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 deemed inappropriate.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to achieve reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report 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.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website <a href="www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities">www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities</a>. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

#### Other information in the statement of accounts

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission or required by applicable law to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the statement of accounts 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

#### Report on other requirements

#### **Opinion on matter prescribed by the Accounts Commission**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

#### Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Ursula Lodge CPFA Audit Scotland 4th Floor, 102 West port Edinburgh EH3 9DN

September 2018

Ursula Lodge is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

# APPENDIX C: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report (Oban Common Good Fund)

## Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Oban Common Good Fund and the Accounts Commission

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of Oban Common Good Fund for the year ended 31 March 2018 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties
  that may cast significant doubt about ability of the charity to continue to adopt the going concern
  basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial
  statements are authorised for issue.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity'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 deemed inappropriate.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to achieve reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report 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.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website <a href="www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities">www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities</a>. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

#### Other information in the statement of accounts

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission or required by applicable law to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the statement of accounts 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

#### Report on other requirements

#### **Opinion on matter prescribed by the Accounts Commission**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

#### Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Ursula Lodge CPFA Audit Scotland 4th Floor, 102 West port Edinburgh EH3 9DN

September 2018

Ursula Lodge is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

# APPENDIX D: Proposed Independent Auditor's Report (Baillie Gillies Bequest, Kidston Park, Miss Annie Dickson Bequest, Logie Baird Prize Fund and Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry)

## Independent auditor's report to the trustees of [Insert Charity Name] and the Accounts Commission

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of [Insert Charity Name] for the year ended 31 March 2018 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Receipts and Payments, the Statement of Balances and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and a receipts and payments basis.

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- properly present the receipts and payments of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2018 and their statement of balances at that date; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulations 9(1), (2) and (3) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### **Basis of opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK and Ireland (ISAs (UK&I)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which properly present the receipts and payments of the charity, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to achieve reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report 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.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website <a href="www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities">www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities</a>. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

#### Other information in the statement of accounts

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission or required by applicable law to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the statement of accounts 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

#### Report on other requirements

#### **Opinion on matter prescribed by the Accounts Commission**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Ursula Lodge CPFA Audit Scotland 4th Floor, 102 West port Edinburgh EH3 9DN

September 2018

Ursula Lodge is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

#### **APPENDIX E: Letter of Representation (ISA 580)**

Ursula Lodge CPFA Senior Audit Manager Audit Scotland 4th Floor, 102 West port Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Dear Ursula

## Charitable Trusts administered by Argyll and Bute Council Financial statements 2017/18

- Baillie Gillies Bequest (Registered Charity SC013578)
- Kidston Park (Registered Charity SC013600)
- Miss Annie Dickson Bequest (Registered Charity SC018697)
- Logie Baird Prize Fund (Registered Charity SC018698)
- McCaig Trust (Registered Charity SC019599)
- Marguess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry (Registered Charity SC019607)
- County of Argyll Educational Trust Scheme 1960 (Registered Charity SC020382)
- Oban Common Good Fund (Registered Charity SC021328)
- 1. This representation letter is provided about your audit of the financial statements of the registered charitable trusts named above, where Argyll and Bute Council is the sole trustee, for the year ended 31 March 2018 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for expressing other opinions on the remuneration report, management commentary and annual governance statement.
- I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief, and having made appropriate enquiries of the trustees of the registered charitable trusts where Argyll and Bute Council is the sole trustee, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit for the year ended 31 March 2018.

#### General

- 3. I acknowledge my responsibility and that of Argyll and Bute Council (as the administering authority of the Charitable Trusts) for the financial statements. All the accounting records, documentation and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual accounts have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All transactions undertaken by the Charitable Trusts have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.
- 4. I confirm that the eight trusts presented for audit are all the trusts that require an audit, where the sole trustee is Argyll and Bute Council.
- 5. The information given in the Trustees Reports to the financial statements presents a balanced picture of the Charitable Trusts and are consistent with the financial statements.
- 6. I confirm that the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. I am not aware of any uncorrected misstatements other than those reported by you.

#### **Financial Reporting Framework**

- 7. The financial statements of Baillie Gillies Bequest, Kidston Park, Miss Annie Dickson Bequest, Logie Baird Prize Fund and Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers including all relevant presentation and disclosure requirements.
- 8. The financial statements of the McCaig Trust, County of Argyll Educational Trust Scheme 1960 and Oban Common Good Fund have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers including all relevant presentation and disclosure requirements.
- Disclosure has been made in the financial statements of all matters necessary for them to show a
  true and fair view/properly present the transactions and state of affairs of Charitable Trusts for
  the year ended 31 March 2018.

#### **Accounting Policies & Estimates**

- 10. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Baillie Gillies Bequest, Kidston Park, Miss Annie Dickson Bequest, Logie Baird Prize Fund and Marquess of Bute Silver Wedding Dowry have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as per applicable regulations and the founding documents of each Trust.
- 11. The Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements of the McCaig Trust, County of Argyll Educational Trust Scheme 1960 and Oban Common Good Fund have been prepared on an accruals basis as per applicable regulations and the founding documents of each Trust.
- 12. All significant accounting policies applied are as shown in the notes to the financial statements. The accounting policies are determined by the financial reporting framework where applicable. Where the financial reporting framework does not specifically apply, I have used judgement in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is relevant and reliable. All accounting policies applied are appropriate to each Trusts' circumstances and have been consistently applied.
- 13. The significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable and properly reflected in the financial statements. Judgements used in making estimates have been based on the latest available, reliable information. Estimates have been revised where there are changes in the circumstances on which the original estimate was based or as a result of new information or experience.

#### **Going Concern Basis of Accounting**

14. A number of the trusts have been dormant in recent years. The Trustees have assessed the ability of the registered charitable trust to carry on as a going concern, and have disclosed in the financial statements, any material uncertainties that have arisen as a result.

#### Assets

15. The assets shown in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2018 were owned by Charitable Trusts, other than assets which have been purchased under finance leases.

- 16. Where a rolling programme of asset valuations has been used, I have satisfied myself that the carrying amount of assets at 31 March 2018 does not differ materially from that which would be determined if a revaluation had been carried out at that date.
- 17. I carried out an assessment at 31 March 2018 as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired and have recognised any impairment losses identified.
- 18. I have provided you with all information of which I am aware regarding any valuation exercises carried out after 31 March 2018.
- 19. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the assets recognised within the financial statements.
- 20. Owned assets are free from any lien, encumbrance or charge except as disclosed in the financial statements.

#### Liabilities

- 21. All liabilities have been provided for in the financial records, including the liabilities for all purchases to which title has passed prior to 31 March 2018.
- 22. There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the liabilities recognised in the financial statements.

#### Fraud

- 23. I have provided you with all information in relation to:
  - my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated because of fraud
  - any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements
  - fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control, or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

#### Laws and Regulations

24. I have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

25. All material transactions with related parties have been disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the 2017/18 accounting code. I have made available to you the identity of all the Charitable Trusts' related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

#### **Corporate Governance**

26. I confirm that there are no issues or deficiencies in internal control that require to be disclosed.

#### **Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet**

- 27. There have been no material events since the date of the Statement of Balances/Balance Sheet which necessitate revision of the figures in the financial statements or notes thereto including contingent assets and liabilities.
- 28. Since the date of the Statement of Balances/Balance Sheet no events or transactions have occurred which, though properly excluded from the financial statements, are of such importance that they should be brought to your notice.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Flanagan Head of Strategic Finance

September 2018