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20 February 2025

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

### **Melton Borough Council Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Melton Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

#### **Financial Statements**

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Reporting Standards and the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
2. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
3. The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
5. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of land, buildings and council dwellings and pensions liabilities. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. The exception to this is where site plans and floor plans did not support amounts used in our land and buildings valuations. This uncertainty has not been adjusted for in the revised statement of accounts.

6. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
7. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
- there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
  - none of the assets of the Council has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
  - there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
8. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
9. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
10. We have considered the adjusted misstatements and misclassification and disclosures changes included in your Audit Findings Report at Appendix C. The Council's financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions
11. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements included in your Audit Findings Report at Appendix C. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as in the case of land and buildings valuations the Finance and Property Team did not have the capacity to substantiate and process the new valuations which resulted in these being disclaimed in the auditor's report as work had not been able to be completed. Other unadjusted misstatements were not material
12. Actual or possible litigation and claims (including those arising from equal pay) have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
13. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
14. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that:
- the nature of the Council means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements;
  - the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
  - the Council's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern

15. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

16. We have considered whether accounting transactions have complied with the requirements of the Local Government Housing Act 1989 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence.

17. The Council has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the Council's financial statements in the event of non-compliance

### **Information Provided**

1. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

2. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

3. On 30 September 2024 parliament approved the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024. These Regulations set a publication date for financial statements in respect of 2023/24 of 28 February 2025. The new National Audit Office Code which was approved on 14 November 2024 also requires that where auditors are unable to conclude their work, they should issue either a qualified audit opinion or a disclaimer of opinion by this date, known as the 'statutory backstop date'. It has not been possible to provide you with all the required information for you to complete your audit for year ending 31 March 2024 by the statutory backstop date. This includes the following:

a. providing you with updated land and buildings valuation calculations and a revised valuation report as a result of revised floor plans and site areas.

### **Annual Governance Statement**

1. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

### **Narrative Report**

1. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Council's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the Council's financial statements.

### **Approval**

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 February 2025.

Yours faithfully



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 @MeltonBC

Dawn Garton  
Director for Corporate Services  
20 February 2025

Councillor J Mason  
Chair – Audit & Standards  
20 February 2025

Signed on behalf of the Council