

Assurance Statement – Treasurer

As Treasurer I have the following personal responsibilities -

- (a) to ensure lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making in consultation with the Clerk of the Authority and the Chief Officer and to report to North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) or external auditor as appropriate including any report under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- (b) to have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of NEIFCA in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 and to lead and manage an effective and responsive financial service.
- (c) to advise all Members and officers about statutory powers, maladministration, financial impropriety and probity, budget, reserves and policy framework issues as set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

In discharging these responsibilities I have responsibility for ensuring a sound system of internal control in relation to financial issues throughout NEIFCA which includes maintaining effective systems for –

- financial planning, management and reporting
- internal financial control
- internal audit
- financial administration
- risk management
- advising managers on financial issues

The system of controls in place is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure, it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness, recognising that the cost of control procedures should not exceed the expected benefits.

Assurance on the effectiveness of controls has also been provided by the work of internal and external audit and regular management reporting. Where recommendations have been made these have been implemented or action plans agreed for implementation in the future.

In discharging my responsibilities, I have -

- Monitored and reported on a monthly basis expenditure and income to managers and ensured correcting action taken as necessary.
- Provided advice on financial matters to Members and officers throughout the year
- Prepared the Authority's budget and monitored and reported on a monthly basis expenditure and income to managers, ensuring correcting action taken as necessary.
- Prepared the Authority's accounts and submitted claims and returns in accordance with the required deadlines.
- Promoted a system of risk management throughout NEIFCA
- Ensured staff are adequately qualified and trained to perform their duties.

I have considered the guidance issued by CIPFA on the Statement of Internal Control and confirm that there have been no significant internal control issues in relation to financial matters during the 2015/2016 financial year that have resulted in –

- (a) a need to seek additional funding to allow it to be resolved, or has resulted in a significant diversion of resources from other aspects of the business, other than in year virements, which have been authorised in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.
- (b) a material impact on the accounts
- (c) a need to take formal action in my role as Treasurer
- (d) significant public interest and damage to the reputation of NEIFCA

*** If significant issues have arisen please provide details together with action taken.**

Signature *In Duand*

Date..... *24/2/16*