

**Assurance Statement from**  
**The Manager of Resource Services for**  
**2004/2005 Accounts**

This formal assurance statement on the Authority's system of Internal Control is based upon the systems audited by Internal Audit, both financial and non-financial during the year 2004/2005.

In addition to this the assurance statements provided by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer (s151), Monitoring Officer, Heads of Service and Head of Unit support the conclusions being made within this statement.

In my opinion and to the best of my knowledge the Authority's system of Internal Control in the main operates satisfactorily. This is further evidenced by external evaluators such as CPA inspection who classified the Authority as a "Good" Authority, the Audit Commission, in their annual audit letter and the inspectorate reports such as the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate.

However, during 2004/2005 certain issues arose which I believe relevant to the preparation of the Statement on Internal Control, within the Statement of Accounts.

Those issues being:

**Outstanding issues from the 2003/04 Statement on Internal Control**

- The findings of Internal and External Audit in relation to the Capital Accounting System
- The findings relating to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in respect of the management of the One Stop Shop Contract
- The findings of the Planning Inspectorate in relation to service delivery

**New issues identified during 2004/05**

- The Authority's Risk Management Strategy requires updating.
- Not all departments maintain a Register of Interests as required within the Authority's Financial Regulations.
- Testing of the Authority's Business Continuity Plan has not yet been undertaken.

It should however, be noted that action plans to address the weaknesses have been implemented and when fully incorporated will ensure that the control in relation to these issues operate efficiently and effectively.

Internal Audit will monitor the progress of the action plans and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions in addressing the issues identified.

The Authority's system of Internal Control can only provide reasonable (not absolute) assurance that assets are safeguarded and that errors or irregularities are prevented or detected within a reasonable period.

This statement is given to the best of my knowledge.

Mrs C Radford  
Manger of Resource Services  
Gedling Borough Council  
June 2005