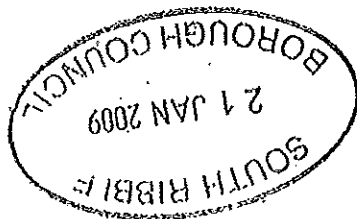


20 January 2009



Ms Maureen Wood

Joint Committee Secretary  
South Ribble Borough Council

Civic Centre

West Paddock

Leyland

PR25 1DH

Dear Ms Wood

**CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE -  
APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

I have recently been advised of the establishment of the Chorley and South Ribble Shared Services Joint Committee, and have been given your name as the administrative contact for the Committee.

Under section 3 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Commission is required to appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of certain local government bodies, including Joint Committees of two or more local authorities. The Commission is also required to formally consult with the body concerned prior to appointing the auditor.

I understand that Chorley Borough Council acts as the lead financial authority for the Joint Committee, and I therefore propose to appoint the Council's auditor, Fiona Blatcher, of the Audit Commission's in-house practice (Northern Region) as the Joint Committee's auditor. The appointment would initially cover the period up to and including 2009/10, in line with the current appointment at Chorley Borough Council.

As you may know, Fiona Blatcher is at present on maternity leave, and her duties are being undertaken by another District Auditor from our Northern Region, Tim Watkinson. Fiona is expected to return to work at the end of April this year.

I understand that the Joint Committee's annual income and expenditure will exceed £1 million, and the audit will therefore be carried out under the Commission's Code of Audit Practice.

If you have any comments you wish to make regarding the proposed appointment, I should be grateful if you would let me have these within one month of the date of this letter. We will consider carefully all comments received and will revisit our proposal in the light of any concerns expressed. Additional information may be obtained from Tim Watkinson (t-watkinson@audit-commission.gov.uk), or from Terry Carter, Head of Operations (North West) (t-carter@audit-commission.gov.uk).

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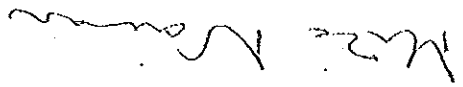
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commission.gov.uk

Direct line  
Direct fax  
Email



Your comments will be considered by the Audit Commission in due course, and I will notify you of the Commission's decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mike Norman  
Manager, Audit Policy & Practice