

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprising Council Areas:
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
Newry Mourne & Down District Council

SOAR Joint Committee

For the period ended 30th September 2015

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Explanatory Foreword**Introduction**

The Joint Committee's financial performance for the period ended 30th September 2015 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 02/16. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way the financial facts in relation to the Joint Committee.

This Statement of Accounts explains the Joint Committee's finances during the financial period 2015/16 and its financial position at the end of that period. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. SOAR Joint Committee does not have material interests in such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

Financial Report

The Statement of Accounts for the period ended 30th September 2015 have been prepared in line with The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in The United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 02/16. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way the financial facts in relation to the Joint Committee for this period. However, the Financial Statements follow approved Accounting standards and are necessarily technical in parts.

The financial statements explain the Joint Committee's finances during the financial period ended 30th September 2015 and its financial position at the end of that period.

The following statements provide further information:

- The Movement in Reserves Statement, as set out on page 15, shows the movement in the period on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee. The surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Joint Committee's services.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as set out on page 16, shows the income earned and the expenditure incurred during the period by the Joint Committee in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. This includes details of funding received from Government bodies and participating Councils, together with details of administrative expenditure incurred by the Joint Committee and financial assistance provided to beneficiaries.

- The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 17, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Joint Committee's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Joint Committee (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee.
- The Cash Flow Statement, as set out on page 18, shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the joint committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

For the period ended 30th September 2015 the Joint Committee accounted for grant income of £162,080, Council contributions of £11,926 and incurred total costs of £174,006. The financial activities of the Joint Committee are wholly funded by Government Bodies and the participating Councils, therefore resulting in a £nil surplus/deficit for the period.

Legislative Context for Preparation and Audit of the Financial Statements

The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Article 3, defines a joint committee of two or more councils to be a local government body and provides that:

The accounts of every local authority government body shall be :

- a) made up to the end of each financial period; and
- b) audited in accordance with this Part by a local government auditor designated by the Department, after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland'.

Article 24 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 provides that the Department may issue regulations as to accounts and audit. In this regard the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 were made on 27 February 2015.

The Accounts Direction, issued by the Department of the Environment on 12th February 2016 under Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2015 requires the Joint Committee to prepare accounts. These financial statements cover the period from 1st April 2015 to 30th September 2015 and have been prepared in compliance with the Direction.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Local Government Reform

From 30th September 2015, the Joint Committee will cease to exist and its functions will be transferred to the new Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, acting as the lead Council, and Newry Mourne & Down District Council.

Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council combines the previous councils of Armagh City & District Council, Banbridge District Council and Craigavon Borough Council into one new body constituted under the framework established by the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Newry Mourne & Down District Council combines the previous councils of Newry & Mourne District Council and Down District Council under the same framework.

The Chief Financial Officer of the lead council is responsible for the preparation, signing and dating of the statement of accounts for the Joint Committee. Since the lead council ceased on 31 March 2015, Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides that the activities of the lead council will be continued by the new council i.e. that council in which the lead council was a predecessor council. As such, for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, the attached Direction will require that the Chief Financial Officer should be that of the new council.

This designated officer will have responsibility for the preparation of final statements of account for the Joint Committee in a form directed by the Department under regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

The role of the Rural Development Joint Committees ended on 30 September 2015. The final accounts for the Development Committee 2007-2013 will be for the 2015/16 financial period and will cover transactions up to the date the Committee ceased to exist, 30 September 2015.

Statement of the Joint Committee's and the Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Joint Committee's Responsibilities

Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a Council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. A council shall designate an officer of the council as its Chief Financial Officer. Arrangements made by a council for the proper administration of its financial affairs shall be carried out under the supervision of its Financial Officer. The Joint Committee has adopted a similar arrangement and the Chief Financial Officer for the Administrative (Lead) Council undertakes equivalent duties for the Joint Committee.

Under Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Joint Committee is required by resolution to approve the accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Joint Committee on 05/04/2016

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

Under Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department of the Environment.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the financial period and the financial position as at the end of the financial period.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer is required to:-

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of the Environment including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom as amended and augmented from time to time as appropriate, and;
- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:-

- keep proper accounting records that are up-to-date; and
- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Governance Statement**Introduction**

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Joint Committee also has a duty under Local Government (Best Value) Act (NI) 2002 to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Joint Committee is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Joint Committee is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the Joint Committee meets the requirements of Regulation 2A of the Local Government Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2006) in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The JCC had its last meeting on 24th March 2015. The Local Action Group Ltd Company was also wound up in May 2015. The new Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council agreed to set up a legacy committee of past JCC and LAG members to oversee any potential clawback or legacy issues. The SOAR administration unit was operational until 30th September 2015 in order to administer final claims and monitor 265 projects ensuring they meet their objectives.

The new Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is set to commence during 2015-2016 year with a Service Level agreement being issued from the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development for the animation budget to deliver the animation function of the programme. £8.02 million has been allocated to the new Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon cluster to deliver Priority 6 of the new Rural Development programme 2014-2020. The process for forming the delivery body (a Local Action Group) for the new programme was facilitated by the Rural Network NI. The LAG is made up of both elected and social members and no single interest group represents more than 49% of the voting rights.

The first meeting of the LAG took place on 15 April 2015 and the first priority was to produce a strategy which reflected local needs of the rural areas and the measures that will be delivered through the new programme. The development of the rural strategy is an important foundation for the Community Planning Process. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) appointed the LAG to develop an Interim Local Rural Development Strategy for delivery under the LEADER methodology across all rural areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon for the delivery of LEADER measures of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Joint Committee is directed and controlled and the activities through which the Joint Committee accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Joint Committee to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Joint Committee's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place for the financial period ended 30th September 2015 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Governance Framework

This section provides a summary of the key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Joint Committee's governance arrangements. The governance arrangements for the Joint Committee are set out in the Consortium Agreement and are supported by the overall governance framework set by Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, in its role as Lead Council.

The Chief Executive for the Lead Council has responsibility for maintaining a system of sound internal controls and risk management processes to support the Joint Committee in the achievement of all conditions in the Letter of Offer, and for reviewing their effectiveness. The systems of controls are based on a continual process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the project objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

Overall control of the governance framework and system of internal controls is the responsibility of the Joint Committee. Regular meetings, policy documents and periodic progress reports enable the Joint Committee to examine and evaluate the progress made in relation to the achievement of its goals and objectives.

Arrangements for undertaking the core functions of an Audit Committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities

The Council has in place a Performance and Audit Committee whose overall purpose and objective is to assist Council in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Performance and Audit Committee, which meets at least four times each period, has responsibility for reviewing:

- The system of internal control and management of risks;
- The financial reporting process;
- The internal and external audit process;
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with its own Standing Orders, policies and procedures.

The Lead Council's Audit Committee remit is not to act as the Audit Committee for the Joint Committee. Instead, it oversees the role of Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council as Lead Council of the Joint Committee. All governance and audit issues are reported directly to the Joint Committee.

Arrangements for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful

The Joint Committee and DARD regularly review progress made and issues arising by way of periodic progress reports, interim reports and final reports. Improved processes regarding eligibility of expenditure, compliance with Letters of Offer and the issue of amendments have been reviewed, updated and implemented during the 2015/16 financial period.

The Lead Council retain a panel of specialist legal advisors to provide expertise, advice and guidance as required. In addition, recommendations as outlined in internal and external audit reports enable the Lead Council to ensure compliance is maintained.

Arrangements for whistle-blowing and for receiving and investigating complaints from the public

The Joint Committee has adopted the lead Council's policies on Whistleblowing and formal complaints. The purpose of the policy is to promote responsible whistleblowing about issues where the interests of others, including the public, or of the Council itself are at risk.

The handling of complaints is set out in the Council's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is published on the Council's website.

These arrangements extend to the role of Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council as Lead Council to the Joint Committee.

Review of effectiveness

The Joint Committee has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Joint Committee's Officers, who have responsibility for supporting the Committee in the development and maintenance of the governance environment and also by recommendations made by auditors from the Managing Authority, DARD, the Audit Authority and other external auditors.

Overall control of the governance framework and system of internal controls is the responsibility of the Joint Committee. Regular meetings, policy documents and periodic progress reports enable the Joint Committee to examine and evaluate the progress made and address issues affecting the implementation of the JC Plan.

The Chief Executive for the Lead Council has responsibility for the preparation of this Annual Governance Statement, as well as the Lead Partner Assurance Statement for submission to DARD, as the Managing Authority. In preparing this statement, he has considered the governance framework and system of internal controls in place.

In undertaking this review account has been taken of Guidance on the Local (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 issued by the Department of the Environment in February 2008. The Chief Executive leads the Council's Executive Management Team to collectively have involvement in and oversight of the processes involved in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework. Progress on the implementation of the JC Plan and issues arising are reviewed and reported to the Economic Development and Regeneration Committee by way of Council reports.

In producing this statement, full regard has been made to the Place Directorate risk register.

Internal Audit services are provided by the Council's Internal Audit team. Internal Audit provides an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control. This extends to reviewing the arrangements in place for JC Projects, which will be reviewed on a periodic basis as part of an on-going programme of work. Internal Audit reports any deficiencies in internal control to the Executive Management Team whose responsibility it is to consider any recommendations made and to take necessary remedial action. The results of the work of Internal Audit are also reported to the Performance and Audit Committee at least four times per year to ensure that continuous improvements take place. These reports to the Performance and Audit Committee include a follow-up report to ensure that actions previously agreed are implemented on a timely basis. As part of the 2015.16 financial year Internal Audit had scheduled an audit of Rural Development which is to be started in March 2016. An internal audit of Rural Development was completed in March 2015 with the main objective being to ensure that administration costs were on target to be limited to a maximum equivalent to 20% of the final verified project expenditure incurred. The final figure has been confirmed at 18.8% and therefore the target has been achieved.

The Council will undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit in line with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.


The Chief Executive for the Lead Council has advised the Joint Committee of the results and implications of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework.

On-going review and update of the governance framework and internal controls will ensure continual improvement and a robust governance framework.

Significant governance issues

There were no significant governance issues noted.

Signature

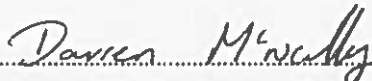


.....
Chief Financial Officer

Date

22/09/2016

Signature



.....
Chairman of the Performance & Audit Committee

Date

22/09/2016

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that :-

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the financial period ended 30th September 2015 on pages 3 to 24 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) and under the accounting policies set out on page 19.

- b) In my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial period and the financial position as at the end of the financial period.

Signature



.....
Chief Financial Officer

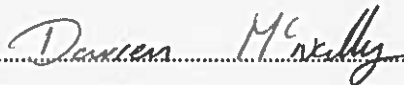
Date

22/09/2016

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Performance & Audit Committee on 22nd September 2016.

Signature



.....
Chairman of the Performance & Audit Committee

Date

22/09/2016

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN ORGANISATION FOR ACTION IN RURAL AREAS JOINT COMMITTEE

I have audited the financial statements of Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee for the period ended 30 September 2015 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

This report is made solely to the Members of Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and the independent auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial period and the financial position as at the end of the financial period. My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of Accounts to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015-16, of the financial position of Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee as at 30 September 2015 and its income and expenditure for the period then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion the information given in the Explanatory Foreword for the financial period ended 30 September 2015 is consistent with the financial statements.


Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if:

- in my opinion:
 - the Annual Governance Statement:
 - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015-16;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department for Communities;
 - is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit; or
 - adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
 - the statement of accounts and the part of the remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
 - I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit, or
- I issue a report in the public interest under Article 9 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; or
- I designate under Article 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 any recommendation made to the Council; or
- I exercise the other special powers of the auditor under Article 19 to 21 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.


Louise Mason
Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

29 September 2016

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£	£	£
At 1st April 2014	0	0	0
Movement in reserves during the period			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
At 31st March 2015	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0
Movement in reserves during the period			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
At 30th September 2015	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	Notes	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
Income			
Government Grant	2a/2b & 4	162,080	400,448
Participating Councils	3	11,926	20,603
Total Income		174,006	421,051
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	7	140,190	312,246
Employment Expenses		2,515	5,410
Committee Member Costs		0	1,099
Premises Costs		6,400	13,200
Supplies and Services		14,987	47,602
Travel and Subsistence Costs		3,010	14,210
Administration Costs		6,904	27,284
		174,006	421,051
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
Long Term Assets		0	0
Short Term Investments		0	0
Inventories		0	0
Short Term Debtors	8	171,948	229,963
Cash and Cash Equivalents		0	0
Assets Held for Sale		0	0
Current Assets		171,948	229,963
Bank Overdraft		0	0
Short Term Borrowing		0	0
Short Term Creditors	9	171,948	229,963
Provisions		0	0
Current Liabilities		171,948	229,963
Long Term Liabilities		0	0
Net Assets		0	0
Usable Reserves		0	0
Unusable Reserves		0	0
Net Worth		0	0

Cash Flow Statement

	2015/16	2014/15
	£	£
Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	0	0
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing	10	0
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	0	0
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	0	0
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	0	0
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

1 Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Financial Statements summarise the Joint Committee's transactions for the 2015/16 financial period and its position at the end of 30th September 2015 . The Joint Committee is required to prepare annual Financial Statements in a form directed by the Department of the Environment in accordance with regulations 4 (1) and (2) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effect of transactions to be reflected in the Financial Statements for the period in which those effects are experienced and not in the period in which the cash is actually received or paid. This ensures that provision has been made for known outstanding debtors and creditors at the period end, estimated amounts being used where actual figures are not available.

SOAR Joint Committee Financial Statements

2a Segmental Report - Current period 2015/16

	SOAR Joint Committee £	Total £
Income from Participating Councils	11,926	11,926
Government Grants	162,080	162,080
Total Income	174,006	174,006
Staff Costs	140,190	140,190
Employment Expenses	2,515	2,515
Premises Costs	6,400	6,400
Supplies and Services	14,987	14,987
Travel and Subsistence Costs	3,010	3,010
Administration Costs	6,904	6,904
Total Expenditure	174,006	174,006
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0

**SOAR Joint Committee
Financial Statements**

2b Segmental Report - Prior period 2014/15

	SOAR Joint Committee	Total
	£	£
Income from Participating Councils	20,603	20,603
Government Grants	400,448	400,448
Total Income	421,051	421,051
Staff Costs	312,339	312,339
Employment Expenses	5,410	5,410
Committee Member Costs	1,099	1,099
Premises Costs	13,200	13,200
Supplies and Services	47,509	47,509
Travel and Subsistence Costs	14,210	14,210
Administration Costs	27,284	27,284
Total Expenditure	421,051	421,051
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0

SOAR Joint Committee**Financial Statements****For the period ended 30th September 2015**

3	Income from Participating Councils	2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
	SOAR Joint Committee	11,926	20,603
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		11,926	20,603

4	Government Grants	2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
	SOAR Joint Committee	162,080	400,448
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		162,080	400,448

5 Financial payments to beneficiaries

In the 2015-16 financial year, the Joint Committee recommended the following payments to DAAs to be paid to beneficiaries under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme.

	2015/16	2014/15
	£	£
Measure 3.1 Diversification into non-Agricultural activities		863,840
Measure 3.2 Business Creation and Development	49,244	0
Measure 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities		626,782
Measure 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Populatic	565,002	2,239,732
Measure 3.5 Village Renewal and Development		1,238,054
Measure 3.6 Conservation and upgrading the Rural Heritage		228,858
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	614,246	5,197,266

6	External Audit Fees	2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
	External Audit Fees	2,000	3,500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,000	3,500

SOAR Joint Committee

Financial Statements

For the period ended 30th September 2015

7 Staff Costs		2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
Salaries		113,430	251,595
National Insurance		3,960	13,278
Pension Costs		22,800	47,373
		140,190	312,246
		2015/16	2014/15
		FTE	FTE
Total Staff Numbers		6	6
		Actual	Actual
		Numbers	Numbers
Full-time numbers employed		5	5
Part-time numbers employed		2	3
		7	8
8 Short Term Debtors		2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
Government Departments		171,948	229,963
		171,948	229,963
9 Short Term Creditors		2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
Councils		162,696	226,463
Other		9,252	3,500
		171,948	229,963
10 Cash Flow Note – Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	Note	2015/16	2014/15
		£	£
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	8	58,015	(59,915)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	9	(58,015)	59,915
		0	0

11 Related Party Transactions

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transactions exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Joint Committee or the Government of which it forms part.

A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Joint Committee and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Joint Committee.

In addition where the relationship with the Joint Committee and the entity is solely that of an Agency, these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

Under the regulations of the NIRDP and in the general terms of good practice a register of declarations of interest is required to be kept and signed on an annual basis. When a member declares a conflict of interest that member is required to remove themselves from any discussion or decisions in relation to that particular body. This is to ensure that the member cannot influence decisions in any way that may be to his or her advantage. It is necessary to reassure the public that all decision making is fair and above board. Finally, it acts as a protection to the member against any possible allegation that he or she may have used their position to their advantage.

Below is a list of organisations/groups with the associated amount of grant that has been paid out in the 2015/16 financial year along with a list of members that declared a conflict of interest and hence did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to that organisation/group.

Name of Organisation Group	Amount of Grant Paid	Name of Member
	£	
Culloville Development Association	198,189	Cllr T Hearty Cllr R Mulgrew Cllr H Reilly Cllr D McAteer Cllr M Murphy Cllr G Donnelly Cllr S Ennis
Ballyholland Development Association	220,518	Cllr T Hearty Cllr H Reilly Cllr R Mulgrew Cllr D McAteer Cllr G Donnelly Cllr M Murphy Cllr S Ennis