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Grant Thornton UK LLP
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Date: 16 November 2026
Ref: SC
Officer: Sean Cremer
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Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

Dorset Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Dorset Council (the "Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2026 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Authority financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 and applicable law.

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

i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, for the preparation of the Authority's financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.

ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Authority and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.

iii. The Authority 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.

iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include valuation of land and buildings and the net defined benefit pension liability. 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 include 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. During the year we evaluated our estimation process for land and

buildings valuations reflecting the requirement to use indexation to estimate the values of assets not revalued in the year. 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.

vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for International Accounting Standard 19 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.

vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

   a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;

   b. none of the assets of the Authority has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and

   c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

viii. 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.

ix. 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.

x. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and attached to this letter. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the results of the Authority and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xi. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.

xii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

xiii. The prior period adjustments disclosed in note 4, note 14 and note 51 to the financial statements are accurate and complete. There are no other prior period errors to bring to your attention.

xiv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Authority'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:

   a. the nature of the Authority 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

   b. the financial reporting framework permits the Authority to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and

   c. the Authority's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

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

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

Information Provided

xvi. We have provided you with:

a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Authority's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters except for the information outlined in paragraph xxvi below;

b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

c. unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

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

xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Authority and involves:

a. management;

b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others. We have considered the continuing impact of the findings relating to the recent fraud investigations on the financial statements as a whole and are satisfied that this does not give rise to a material misstatement.

xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

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

xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

xxv. 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 2025/26 of 31 January 2027. The National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice, which was published 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 'backstop date'. It has not been possible to provide you with all the information required for you to complete your audit for the year ending 31 March 2026 by the backstop date in relation to property, plant and equipment and reserves.

Annual Governance Statement

xxvi. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority'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

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

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Authority's Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 16 November 2026.

Yours faithfully

<<< electronic signature >>>

Name: **Sean Cremer**

Position: **Director – Resources (CFO & s151 Officer)**

Date: **16 November 2026**

Signed on behalf of the Authority

Appendix I
Unadjusted misstatements

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit and Governance Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on surplus/deficit on the provision of services £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Management's reason for not adjusting
Property valuation errors Dr Reserves Errors identified in respect of land and buildings valuations		Reserves 1,675 Property, plant and equipment (1,675)			Immaterial
Defined benefit pension assets The audit of Dorset Pension Fund identified an understatement error relating to the differences in asset valuations.	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (2,342)	Net defined benefit liability 2,342 Reserves (2,342)			Immaterial
Overall impact of current year unadjusted misstatements	(2,342)	667			