Independent auditor’s report to the Trustee of City of Edinburgh Council Charitable Trusts and the Accounts Commission

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of The City of Edinburgh Council Charitable Trusts for the year ended 31 March 2023 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

* give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charities as at 31 March 2023 and of their incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
* have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
* have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/as_code_audit_practice_21.pdf) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charities in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charities' ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Responsibilities of the Trustee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charities’ ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee intends to discontinue the charities’ operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

* using my understanding of the local government sector and charity sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are significant in the context of the charities;
* inquiring of the Trustee and the management as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the charities;
* inquiring of the Trustee and the management concerning the charities’ policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
* discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
* considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charities’ controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit-and-Actuarial-Regulation/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx). This description forms part of my auditor’s report.

Reporting on other requirements

**Other information**

The Trustee is responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the Trustee’s Annual Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Trustee’s Annual Report to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

**Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Trustee’s Annual Report**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustee’s Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

**Matters on which I am required to report by exception**

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

* proper accounting records have not been kept; or
* the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
* I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Christopher Gardner

Audit Scotland

8 Nelson Mandela Place

Glasgow

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Christopher Gardner is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.