

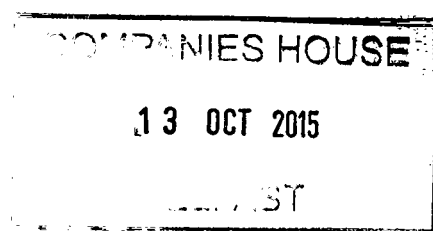
Registration number: NI 025793

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015



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THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

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THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Clarke Black Kimberly Addis Patrick Casement Liam Flanigan Maire Gallagher Stewart Johnston Eileen Kelly Tony McCusker Joe McDonald Edward McVeigh Alan Hunter
Chairman	Tony McCusker
Registered office and business address	17 Loy Street Cookstown BT80 8PZ
Bankers	First Trust Bank 2/4 James Street Cookstown BT80 8LW
Auditors	Finegan Gibson Ltd Highbridge House 23/25 High Street Belfast BT1 2AA
Company number	NI 025793

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Principal activity

To encourage and assist local people to participate directly in or contribute towards the development and regeneration process of their communities.

The Rural Development Council ('RDC') was established in 1991 as an independent organisation under The Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland. RDC exists to address the needs of rural society through ensuring that rural Northern Ireland makes a full and balanced contribution to the development of the region.

Structure

The RDC is a company limited by guarantee and has a current membership of 11. These company directors represent a broad sectoral and geographical mix of rural interest groups including rural communities, agricultural sector, local government, environmental interests, community banking and the private sector.

Directors

The following acted as directors of the Company during the year ended 31 March 2015:

Clarke Black	Alan Hunter
Kimberley Addis	Eileen Kelly
Patrick Casement (Appointed 09/06/2014)	Tony McCusker
Liam Flanagan (Appointed 09/06/2014)	Edward McVeigh
Maire Gallagher (Appointed 09/06/2014)	Liam McKibben (Resigned 10/06/2014)
Joe McDonald (Appointed 09/06/2014)	Jennifer Coulter (Resigned 29/05/2014)
Stewart Johnston (Appointed 09/06/2014)	

Each of the members has guaranteed to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up to the extent of £1.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

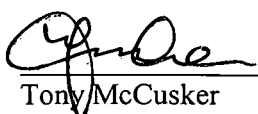
- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Finegan Gibson Ltd are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on 30 September 2015 and signed on its behalf by:



Tony McCusker
Chairman

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

We have audited the financial statements of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council for the year ended 31st March 2015 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and the auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB'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 company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of its profit 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 Companies Act 2006.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (CONTINUED)**

Emphasis of matter – Going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 13 to the financial statements concerning the company's ability to continue as a going concern. As at 31 March 2015, the company had net liabilities of £254,102 and uncertainty exists regarding future funding and the extent of the company's liabilities in relation to the pension scheme deficit. These conditions, along with the matters explained in note 13 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty however the directors believe the uncertainties are not such as to cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



C Dolan (Senior statutory auditor)
For and behalf of Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

30 September 2015

Highbridge House
23/25 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2AA

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Income	1	1,583,561	2,336,856
Expenditure		(1,665,646)	(2,331,261)
		-----	-----
Operating profit / (loss)		(82,085)	5,595
Interest receivable and similar income		10,943	27,728
		-----	-----
Profit / (Loss) on ordinary activities before tax	2	(71,142)	33,323
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	5	(5,356)	(13,584)
		-----	-----
Retained profit / (loss) for the year		(76,498)	19,739
		=====	=====

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements


THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Retained profit / (loss) for the year		(76,498)	19,739
Actuarial gain / (loss) on market value of the defined benefit scheme's assets and liabilities	12	(421,000)	283,000
Total recognised gains and losses for the year		(497,498)	302,739
Retained profit brought forward		243,396	(59,343)
Retained profit / (loss) carried forward	11	(254,102)	243,396

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	1,670	6,691
		-----	-----
Current assets			
Debtors	8	392,427	881,830
Cash at bank and in hand		1,493,738	1,452,677
		-----	-----
		1,886,165	2,334,507
Creditors			
Amount falling due within one year	9	(325,937)	(633,802)
		-----	-----
Net current assets		1,560,228	1,700,705
		-----	-----
Net assets excluding pension liabilities		1,561,898	1,707,396
Long term liabilities			
Defined benefit pension asset / (liability)	12	(1,816,000)	(1,464,000)
		-----	-----
Net assets including pension liabilities		(254,102)	243,396
		=====	=====
Funds	11	(254,102)	243,396
		=====	=====

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 30th September 2015 and signed on its behalf by:


 Tony McCusker
 Chairman

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Income

Income represents the total value, excluding value added tax where applicable, of sales made during the year and grant income received and derives from the provision of services falling within the company's ordinary activities.

Pension scheme

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme for its employees. Scheme funds are administered by independent trustees. Following the adoption of FRS17 any net asset or liability of the pension scheme is recognised in these accounts in accordance with actuary valuations.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings - 33.3% straight line basis

Taxation

The Council, as a corporate body, is liable to corporation tax on its investment and trading income. Provision is made for such a liability in any year where it arises.

2. Profit on ordinary activities

	2015	2014
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	5,021	5,512
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	3,000	3,000
	=====	=====

3. Directors' remuneration

	2015	2014
	£	£
Remuneration and other benefits	-	-
Directors' pension contributions	-	-
	=====	=====

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

4. Staff costs	No.	No.
The average number employed by the company, including directors, was:		
Corporate Services	4	4
Programmes and Operations	5	13
Rural and Regional Affairs	7	7
	----	----
Total number employed	16	24
	====	====

The costs incurred in respect of these employees were:	2015	2014
	£	£
Wages and salaries	487,957	721,732
Employers National insurance	44,517	57,656
Pension service (gain) / cost	41,000	104,000
Pension deficit	50,000	-
Council Costs	-	5,161
Agency and associate costs	9,034	34,927
Redundancy costs	68,226	52,059
	-----	-----
	700,734	975,535
	=====	=====

5. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

Analysis of charge in the period	2015	2014
	£	£
Current tax		
UK corporation tax @ 20%	5,356	13,584
	=====	=====

6. Related party transactions

None of the board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the NI Rural Development Council during the year other than the payment of salaries and reimbursement of expenses.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

7. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost:		
As at 1 April 2014	178,168	178,168
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
	-----	-----
As at 31 March 2015	178,168	178,168
	-----	-----
Depreciation:		
As at 1 April 2014	171,477	171,477
Charge for year	5,021	5,021
Depreciation eliminated on disposal	-	-
	-----	-----
As at 31 March 2015	176,498	176,498
	-----	-----
Net Book Value:		
As at 1 April 2014	6,691	6,691
	=====	=====
As at 31 March 2015	1,670	1,670
	=====	=====

The directors do not consider the current values of fixed assets to be materially different from the net book values as shown above.

8. Debtors	2015 £	2014 £
Trade debtors	382,125	867,569
Prepayments	2,550	7,261
Interest receivable	7,000	7,000
Other debtors	752	-
	-----	-----
	392,427	881,830
	=====	=====

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

9. Creditors (amounts due within one year)	2015	2014
	£	£
Bank overdrafts	-	165
Trade creditors	192,420	404,317
Other Creditors	-	2,408
Accruals	7,510	7,510
Grants received in advance	95,417	153,507
Corporation tax	-	13,584
VAT	30,590	52,311
	-----	-----
	325,937	633,802
	=====	=====

10. Guarantee

The Council is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

11. Funds

	£
Balance as at 1 st April 2014	243,396
Total recognised gains/(losses) for year	(497,498)

Balance as at 31 st March 2015	(254,102)
	=====

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

12. Pension Scheme

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee Scheme (NILGOSC) for the majority of its employees. Pension benefits are provided through the NILGOSC Scheme. This is a statutory scheme that benefits on a "final salary" basis at a normal retirement age of 65. The scheme's professionally qualified actuaries recommend the rates of contribution to be paid.

The NILGOSC scheme is a fully funded defined benefit scheme. Under FRS 17 the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council is required to account for their share of assets and liabilities in the scheme.

Added years discretionary benefits awarded to former employees who retired early are accounted for as a defined benefit scheme, as in accordance with FRS17. This liability represents the actuarial liability of future costs to NILGOSC in respect of past employees who retired early. Given projected lifespans this liability will be payable over a number of years.

The latest formal actuarial valuation of the fund was carried out as at 31 March 2013, with the next formal valuation due as at 31 March 2016. In calculating the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council's assets and liabilities, the fund's actuaries have rolled forward the values calculated at the latest valuation. Further the fund's actuaries had to make a number of assumptions about events and circumstances in the future, meaning that the results of actuarial calculations are subject to uncertainties within a range of possible values. The following actuarial assumptions were accepted on the recommendation of the actuary:

	31 Mar 2015	31 Mar 2014
Financial assumptions	%	%
Pension increase rate	1.8%	2.4%
Salary increase rate	3.3%	3.9%
Discount rate	3.2%	4.3%

The value of the assets held by the pension scheme attributable to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council are analysed as follows:

	Assets at 31 Mar 2015	Assets at 31 Mar 2014
Asset class	£(000)	£(000)
Equities	3,210	2,865
Government Bonds	250	228
Corporate Bonds	286	236
Property	554	432
Cash	88	100
Other	9	-
Total	4,397	3,861

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

12. Pension Scheme (continued)

Balance sheet disclosures:

	31 Mar 2015	31 Mar 2014
Net pension asset as at	£(000)	£(000)
Fair value of employer assets	4,397	3,861
Present value of funded liabilities	(6,213)	(5,325)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	-	-
Unrecognised past service cost	-	-
Net pension asset / (liability)	(1,816)	(1,464)

Profit and loss account disclosures:

Analysis of Amount Charged to operating profit	Year to 31 Mar 2015		Year to 31 Mar 2014	
	£(000)	% of pay	£(000)	% of pay
Current service cost	78	16.2%	108	19.8%
Interest cost	229	47.5%	236	43.2%
Expected return on employer assets	(266)	(55.2%)	(240)	(43.9%)
Past Service Cost	-	-	-	-
Total operating charge	41	8.5%	104	19.1%
Actual return on plan assets	506		340	

	31 Mar 2015	31 Mar 2014
Recognition of defined benefit obligation	£(000)	£(000)
Opening defined benefit obligation	5,325	5,233
Current service cost	78	108
Interest cost	229	236
Contributions by members	24	32
Actuarial losses / (gains)	661	(183)
Past service costs / (gains)	-	-
Estimated benefits paid	(104)	(101)
Closing defined benefit obligation	6,213	5,325

	31 Mar 2015	31 Mar 2014
Reconciliation of fair value of employer assets	£(000)	£(000)
Opening fair value of employer assets	3,861	3,494
Expected return on assets	266	240
Contributions by members	24	32
Contributions by the employer	110	96
Actuarial gains / (losses)	240	100
Estimated benefits paid	(104)	(101)
Closing fair value of employer assets	4,397	3,861

THE NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

12. Pension Scheme (continued)

	31 Mar 2015	31 Mar 2014
Amounts for the current and previous periods	£(000)	£(000)
Fair value of employer assets	4,397	3,861
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(6,213)	(5,325)
Surplus / (deficit)	(1,816)	(1,464)
Experience gains / (losses) on assets	240	100
Experience gains / (losses) on liabilities	24	32

Statement of total recognised gains and losses disclosures:

	Year to 31	Year to 31
Analysis of amount recognised in the Statement of	Mar 2015	Mar 2014
Total Recognised Gains and Losses (STRGL)	£(000)	£(000)
Actuarial gains / (losses)	(421)	283
Increase / (Decrease) in irrecoverable Surplus from Membership fall and other factors	-	-
Actuarial Gains / (Losses) recognised in STRGL	(421)	283
Cumulative Actuarial gains and losses	(2,194)	(1,773)

13. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The company had net liabilities of £254,102 as at 31 March 2015 due to the defined benefit pension scheme liability. As stated in note 12, the next formal valuation of the scheme will have an effective date of 31 March 2016 with the results expected early 2017. Following this valuation, the pension scheme trustees may direct participating employers to increase their contributions from March 2015 which would have a negative impact on the company's operating performance.

The company's operating surplus for the year ended 31 March 2015 was a negative result. The pension scheme deficit is not a short term liability and should be met in the long term by a combination of contributions and the underlying investment performance of the scheme's assets. The directors have no intention of taking any action that would trigger immediate crystallisation of the pension scheme liability.

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.