



BEAMISH MUSEUM LIMITED – 14th January 2011

Annual Audit Letter 2009/2010

Report of the Museum Director and Treasurer

The Annual Audit Letter 2009/2010 from the Audit Commission is attached for Members' attention. The Key Messages in this year's audit letter are shown on pages 2 to 3 and can be summarised as follows:

- An unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Joint Committee and its Group for 2009/2010 was issued on 28th September 2010 and the accounts certified;
- An unqualified value for money conclusion was also issued on 28th September 2010;
- Working papers were comprehensive and Officers were responsive to the queries raised with them and displayed a strong technical knowledge of accounting standards and requirements. This will be important as 2010/2011 will be the first year that the financial statements need to be prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The Joint Committee's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources were assessed and found to be adequate. The Museum has performed well over the last two years turning a deficit into a healthy surplus and significantly increasing visitor numbers.

There are no recommendations in the Annual Audit Letter, however, Members will need to ensure the successful implementation of IFRS for the 2010/2011 financial statements and adopt a prudent approach to budget projections in light of the economic recession and cuts in public spending.

Members are invited to note the Annual Audit Letter 2009/2010.

Malcolm Page CPFA
Treasurer