

This is our annual report on matters arising from our role as auditor of regional and territorial local authorities and other public entities in the local government sector.

## Report Contents

The contents of this report are divided into two broad subject groupings:

- regional and territorial local authorities; and
- other local government matters in relation to energy companies and licensing trusts.

Within the first grouping, the articles are collated under the sub-headings that follow.

### *Issues from the 1997-98 Audits*

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Parts 1 to 4 discuss results of the 1997-98 audits. This was the first year that nine councils reported under the new financial management regime. We discuss the experience of those authorities in relation to their reporting obligations, and the rest of the local authorities under the new planning regime. We also discuss issues regarding accounting for infrastructural assets.

### *Other Issues Looked At During the 1997-98 Audits*

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As in previous years, a number of issues were reviewed during the annual audits. The results of those reviews have been collated in Parts 5 to 7 to give an overall picture for regional and territorial local authorities.

### *Other Matters Arising During 1997-98*

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Parts 8 to 14 highlight a number of issues that are continuing to cause problems for regional and territorial local authorities. Some of these result from uncertainty in applying some elements of local government legislation. For other issues, we have concerns that the requirements are not being properly followed.

## *Issues for 1998-99*

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Parts 15 and 16 focus on the areas where special attention will be placed during the audits for 1998-99.

