

**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**  
**(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**  
**Registered Number 1227868**

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**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

The directors present their annual report with the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

**DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit and or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts the directors are required to

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,  
Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,  
Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the directors has confirmed, so far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware and each director has taken steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of, and to establish that the auditors are aware of, any relevant audit information.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**MESSAGE FROM NHIC PRESIDENT  
The Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP**

Home improvement has taken on a new and increasingly significant role which is clearly demonstrated by another, very successful year for the National Home Improvement Council. Against the background of recession in the building and construction industry, the need for a sustained programme of repair, maintenance and improvement of our country's homes is more important than ever before.

This is not just a matter of bringing defective homes up to 21st century standards, it is essential that our nation's 26million existing homes are greener and more energy efficient, to lower their carbon emissions and make them much less costly to run. This is not only for those in fuel poverty but for every private and public householder in the UK.

Amongst other things, this means far more extensive implementation of sustainable and renewable energy systems, across the whole spectrum of homes.

Through the very significant commitment of its Members the NHIC continues to maintain pressure for effective action on the scale necessary to secure the overall improvement in the state of our homes. This means that our RMI industry needs to be even more dynamic and progressive.

There can be no doubt about the scale of the challenge, but the rewards are potentially huge. Over the next four, crucial decades there will be a need for at least £400billion to be invested in housing alone. This means a massive programme of work for the UK building industry.

The NHIC and its Members are well placed to influence this spending and to play an even greater role in the nation's future, carbon efficient development.

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Recession is biting hard and 2010 has seen many things get worse. Indeed, reliable industry sources suggest that product manufacturers and contractors 'anticipate that sales and workloads will decline in 2011 due to economic uncertainty and falls in public spending'.

Although this year was very difficult, the NHIC is extremely grateful to the continued support of all its Members through these very testing times. As a result it was able to maintain its considerable, beneficial activities and, in specific areas, develop them even further.

The NHIC Members' Forums have become a very important part of the Council's many activities. Not only are the various Forum subjects attracting a lot of attention from Members but also many non-members are coming along, together with regular visits from editors and journalists. These really are unique occasions when there may rarely be another opportunity to listen to a particular speaker or get the opportunity to question them?

During the year there were major Forum contributions from several leading experts in the home improvement industry.

Ron Bailey, of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, explained details of the time consuming dedication involved in getting Parliamentary business through a rather arduous process. One of his major achievements was the Energy Bill.

Andrew Mellor, architect and director (environment) of the PRP/a1 partnership has particular experience of sustainability projects including large scale regeneration, commercial, hospitality and residential developments. He leads PRP's Environmental Services team and also sits on the practice-wide Sustainability Steering Group and chairs the London office Sustainability Group.

Holly Simms, is marketing manager for Calor. Starting in 2010, it is running its 'FREE' three-year, £1million, rural energy advisorship initiative, aimed at tackling fuel poverty and promoting energy efficiency in off-gas grid rural communities across England, Scotland and Wales. This involves a lot of insulation and energy efficiency.

Bal Matthu, is chief executive of Comcerto which offers a unique platform for people across the nation to move forward their improvement requirements, quickly and effectively. It aims to avoid 'cowboy builders', 'dodgy plumbers', 'con handymen' – workmen commonly and collectively known as 'rogue traders'.

The 'meaning' of improvement has changed dramatically since the NHIC started in 1975. In those days much of the private and public sector housing was to replace the kitchen or bathroom, and repair the fabric. Now it's a whole-home approach to reducing carbon emissions, maximising energy efficiency and minimising water usage.

Consequently, much of the NHIC's current involvement in repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) is set against the Government's 'Green Deal' and the Bathroom Manufacturer Association's proposed 'Blue Deal', concerning water conservation.

A big problem, highlighted during the year by our Member the Federation of Master Builders, concerned improvement standards. In contrast with new-build housing, there are no energy standards for refurbishment in the UK, which the NHIC is now aiming to highlight.

FMB is also leading the way in reducing VAT from 20%, which would help create new jobs to improve the construction industry and to develop new skills and training. The Federation and the NHIC are closely involved with the Get Britain Building campaign.

Another very active NHIC Member, the Construction Products Association, has produced a comprehensive book entitled 'An introduction to low carbon domestic refurbishment', containing some extremely pertinent facts and figures.

According to the CPA the programme to improve our housing stock could cost over £400 billion in the next 40 years. The scale of such a programme is unprecedented in both the challenge and opportunity it provides for the construction industry.

The NHIC has also been closely involved with reducing fuel poverty which has reached an all-time level.

Throughout the year the NHIC has worked closely with and attended the meetings of a number of All Party Parliamentary Committees, covering Water, Energy, Gas Safety and Electrical Safety. It has also joined in debates concerning energy levels in the Private Rented Sector, in which Baroness Maddock and others from both Houses, have played a major role.

The NHIC has also been closely involved with current and future developments of Feed-in Tariffs, which are crucial to sustainable, energy efficient home improvements and particularly important to another Council Member, the Energy Saving Trust.

Together with the NFRC, the NHIC has also been involved with the early stages of the Institute for Sustainability's FLASH programme. This is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and provides a range of business support to London-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) working in construction or other built environment industries, technologies and professions.

Working closely with the publisher Centaur, the NHIC has a special association with the National Home Improvement Show, the successful private sector exhibition and informative conference which is held each year in early October. For three days over a weekend, Andrew Leech was one of several 'experts' providing advice and knowledge to many visitors to this event.

Regardless of the recession, the NHIC Annual Awards 2010 were extremely popular with ten categories sponsored by various NHIC Members. The Council is indebted to the sponsors for their continued support and enthusiasm, which is invaluable.

Held in the Gladstone Library, London SW1, the event was hosted by Nick Raynsford and very well attended by sponsors and their guests, who all enjoyed some high level networking.

The NHIC Board was most grateful to Alison Seabeck, MP, Shadow Minister for Housing, who presented the Annual Awards. And to the many local authorities, housing associations and important others who made submissions.

Throughout the year the NHIC has been closely in touch with the NHIC Educational Trust, which promoted an award in conjunction with TrustMark.

In addition to the 2010 Press Packs plus other articles and editorials, there were major supplements in which a number of Members were included at special advertisement and editorial rates. Two supplements were in The Guardian and another in The Sunday Telegraph.

The magazine Progress was produced especially to carry full details of the NHIC Annual Awards presentation. Each of the ten Categories was mentioned with detailed descriptions plus illustrations of the winning entries.

Very special thanks must go to the NHIC's President, Nick Raynsford, for his ongoing support and his close involvement at various meetings – such as the Building Research Establishment and EcoBuild – where he has made presentations under the auspice of the NHIC. Also we are most grateful for his continued support and sponsorship of NHIC Parliamentary lunches and other meetings in the House of Commons.

We are indebted to Martin Orrill, Head of Technology at British Gas, for his very amiable and firm chairmanship of the NHIC over the last two years. Also, he has taken time to actively chair various important meetings during his chairmanship.

The NHIC is very pleased to welcome Kevin Lowe of British Gas as the next Chairman and his Vice-Chairman, Stefan Hay, of the Electrical Contractors Association and Simon Storer, of the Construction Products Association.

The continued support is gratefully appreciated of Vice Chairmen, Lord Ezra MBE, Baroness Maddock, Earnest Cantle CBE, and John Demont.

Extra special thanks go to NHIC Treasurer, Gary Simcock. He provides regular updates of the NHIC's financial situation and his readily available advice, expertise and knowledge is extremely invaluable.

It is very important to mention the far-reaching activities of the NHIC Marketing Committee and its hardworking members, under the chairmanship of Lester Corney. Amongst several achievements a very special letter to all prospective NHIC members has been initiated and mailed to everyone involved. More, similar letters will be dispatched and followed up in the future.

Andrew Leech wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the NHIC, in particular his colleague Emma Turgoose, who has kept everything on the 'straight and narrow'. In addition, every appreciation must be given to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors whose 'team' provides admirable support whenever necessary!

Finally, no organisation as influential and well respected as the National Home Improvement Council could ever be as successful without the continued support and cooperation of its Members. The Council's Board and Executive Director are, indeed, grateful and encouraged by their ongoing dedication and encouragement.

## **BOARD**

Board of Management - the following served in the year

B Berry	Y Orgill
E Cantle	M Orrill
D L Carver	G Simcock
L W D Corney	S Storer
J A Demont	R S Warom
N Dumbrell	F Whitefoot
S Hay	A Leech
K Lowe	

## **SMALL COMPANIES EXEMPTIONS**

The accounts are prepared with the special provisions of part 15 on the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board



**Andrew Leech**  
Secretary

## AUDITORS

The Auditors, Beales & Co, were appointed in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Leech', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andrew Leech**  
Secretary

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**  
**(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

We have audited the financial statements of National Home Improvement Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 set out on pages 3 to 6 which have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for smaller Entities and the accounting policies set out on page 5

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 495 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 auditors**

As described in the Statement of Directors Responsibilities on page 1, the company's 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 relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Auditing Standards (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board'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 financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements

- . give a true and fair view of the company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 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

**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



David Beales (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Beales & Co, Statutory Auditor

Oaken Coppice, Bears Den  
Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 6PL

28<sup>th</sup> June 2011



**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**  
**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

	Notes	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Turnover	1	99,713	87,729
Operating Expenditure		84,576	82,759
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Retained Surplus for the year</b>		15,137	4,970
<b>Retained Surplus at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010</b>		10,138	5,168
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Retained Surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010</b>	7	£25,275	£10,138
		<hr/>	<hr/>

**Continuing operations**

All the company's activities in the above two financial years derived from continuing operations

**Total recognised gains and losses**

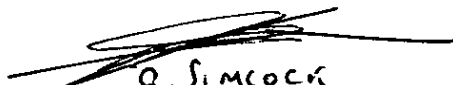
The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above two financial years

**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL****(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

	NOTES	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible asset	6	313	1,033
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at Bank		15,391	5,378
Debtors	4	23,817	26,243
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		39,208	31,621
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Due within one year	5	14,246	22,516
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		24,962	9,105
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£25,275	£10,138
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
Accumulated Fund	7	£25,275	£10,138
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

The Directors approved these financial statements on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011

  
Q. Simcock  
Director

**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

**(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting Convention**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with applicable accounting standards

**Taxation**

Corporation Tax is provided on income received from third parties, as the Company is not taxed on income received from its members as this is treated as mutual trading

**Deferred Tax**

As the company is not liable to tax on its income deferred tax does not arise

**Cash Flow**

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement

**Turnover**

Turnover represents the invoiced amount of services rendered to members

	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>2. SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION</b>		
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging		
Depreciation	720	721
Directors' Remuneration	24,000	24,000
Auditors' Remuneration	900	900
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**3. TAXATION**

UK Corporation tax – current year

-	-
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**4. DEBTORS**

Debtors	23,817	25,743
Prepayments	-	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£23,817	£26,243
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**5 CREDITORS**

Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals & Deferred Income	14,246	22,516
Corporation Tax	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£14,246	£22,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

**(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2010**

**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSET**

**Cost**

At 1 <sup>st</sup> January & 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	£3,476
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**Depreciation**

At 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	2,443
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Charge for the year	720
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At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	£3,163
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**Net Book Value**

At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	£313
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At 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	£1,037
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**7. ACCUMULATED FUNDS**

Reconciliation of movement on members' funds

Surplus for the Financial Year	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	15,137	4,970

Opening balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	10,138	5,168
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Closing balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	<u>£25,275</u>	<u>£10,138</u>
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**8. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

Each member has agreed to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up

**NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

**(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REVENUE ACCOUNT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

	Notes	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Income</b>			
Members Subscriptions		43,177	45,399
Debts recovered from previews year		10,002	-
Press Packs		8,430	7,250
Awards – Sponsorship		26,804	28,009
Parliamentary Liaison		11,300	5,968
Miscellaneous		-	403
Adverts		-	700
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		99,713	87,729
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Office Rent & Services		18,375	16,800
Directors' Remuneration	2	24,000	24,000
General Expenses		731	1,280
Telephone		635	661
Travelling & Meeting Expenses		3,671	4,041
Audit & Accountancy		4,200	4,200
Parliamentary Liaison		4,772	3,929
Public Relations		5,410	3,771
Progress Magazine		1,140	-
Awards – Costs		14,793	16,178
Website		2,569	2,258
Educational Trust - Donation		1,375	2,720
Press Packs		2,185	2,200
Depreciation		720	721
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		84,576	82,759
<b>Net Surplus before Taxation</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15,137	4,970
Corporation Tax	3	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Retained Surplus for the year</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£15,137	£4,970