### Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities\*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
  - · are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
  - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

# Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

- Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.
- 2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:
  - The Annual Internal Audit Report must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
  - Sections 1 and 2 must be completed and approved by the authority.
  - Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
- The authority must approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both must be approved and published on the authority website/webpage before 1 July 2021.
- 4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, must return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2021. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
  - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
  - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2021
  - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
  - · notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
  - Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Section1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate will be returned to the authority by email or post.

#### **Publication Requirements**

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2021 authorities must publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21, approved and signed, page 4
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2021 authorities must publish:

- · Notice of conclusion of audit
- Section 3 External Auditor Report and Certificate
- Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

## Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21

- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. Proper Practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide\* which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. If the AGAR contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2021.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- · The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, you must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers
  all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank
  reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting
  statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation must be provided of any difference between Box 7 and
  Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide\*.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 5. Do not just send a copy of the detailed
  accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the
  reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2021).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, must set the commencement date for the
  exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which must include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority must publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor before 1 July 2021.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements					
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?				
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?				
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?				
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?				
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?				
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published?				
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2021 been reconciled to Box 8?				
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?				
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? <b>NB</b> : do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.				

<sup>\*</sup>Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

#### Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

#### Bishop's Castle Town Council

https://bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk/

ENTERVERPACE ADDRESS

**During** the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.		1	
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	1		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	1		Belly
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			1
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	1		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V	40.90	010000
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	1		7500
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	1		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")	1		
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/ webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.			1
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	1		SILENE S
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	1		

O. (For local councils only)

Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.

Yes No Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

12 JUNE 2021

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

IAIN A SELLING FED

Date 12 JUNG 2021

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed)

#### Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

#### Bishop's Castle Town Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agr	eed			
	Yes	No*	'Yes' m	eans that this authority:	
<ol> <li>We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.</li> </ol>	~			ed its accounting statements in accordance a Accounts and Audit Regulations	
<ol><li>We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.</li></ol>	~		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.		
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	~		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.		
<ol> <li>We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</li> </ol>	~		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.		
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	~		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.		
<ol><li>We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.</li></ol>	V		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financi controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.		
<ol> <li>We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.</li> </ol>	~		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.		
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	V		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.		
(For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	
responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	~				

<sup>\*</sup>Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

20-7-21

https://bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk/

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

Clerk

#### Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

#### Bishop's Castle Town Council

	Year e	Year ending		Notes and guidance				
	31 March 2020 £		March 021 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.				
Balances brought forward	22,226		34,812	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.				
(+) Precept or Rates and Levies	138,000	3	150,000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	47,589	59562	48,977	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2), Include any grants received.				
4. (-) Staff costs	44,444	48,977		Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0		Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)				
6. (-) All other payments	128,559	101840 93,557		O AIL OO FET		Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	34,812	101,840		101,840		Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
Total value of cash and short term investments	34,812		34,812	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.				
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	860,358	860,358		860,358		860,358		The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0		The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
(For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.				
		~		N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.				

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities - a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

25-5-21

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting

John for

Statements were approved

#### Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

#### Bishop's Castle Town Council

	Year er	nding	Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	22,226	34,81	2 Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	138,000	150,00	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	47,589	48,97	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	44,444	48,97	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0		Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)		
6. (-) All other payments	128,559	93,55	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	34,812	101,84	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
Total value of cash and short term investments	34,812	34,81	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.		
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	860,358	860,35	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings	0		The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
(For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		Yes No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
		~	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities - a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being

presented to the authority for approval

Date

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

#### Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of

**BISHOP'S CASLTE TOWN COUNCIL - SH0025** 

#### 1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

#### 2 External auditor report 2020/21

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2020/21 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered 'No' to this assertion. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, is not correct.

The smaller authority has not addressed the 'except for' matters raised by the external auditor when qualifying the prior year annual return by failing to restate the figures in the comparative column. The figures in Section 2, Boxes 6, 7 and 8 of the comparative column should read, £128,221, £34,474 and £34,474 respectively.

The smaller authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 1 July 2021, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 1.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2021/22 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2022/23.

#### 3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

External Auditor Name			
	PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP		
External Auditor Signature	Mr Lutte Let	Date	20/09/2021
**** ( () *****   1   1			. A 19 O . I

Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

#### Council: BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

Section 1 The Annual return analysis

Year ending	31/03/2020	31/03/2021
Balances brought forward	22226	34812
2.+ annual precept	138000	150000
3.+ Total other receipts	47589	59562
4 staff costs	44444	48977
5 Loan / interest / cap repayment	0	0
6 total other repayments	128559	93557
7.= balance of	34812	101840
8. total cash & investements	34812	101840
9. Total fixed assests	860358	860358
10. Total borrowing	0	0

#### **Bank Reconciliation**

Cash Book	
Balance brought forward	34811.89
Add Receipts	209561.62
Less Payment	142533.23
Balance of	101840.28

Bank Balances	
Unity Trust Bank 20384366	9924.19
Unity Trust Bank 20370082	91916.09
Uncashed cheques	0
Balances @ 31/3/20201	101840.28

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	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL			SECTION 1		
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		2020 This year	2021 This year	Diffce	
	1. Balances brought forward		22,226	34,812	(40)	
	2. Annual Precept		138,000	150,000		
	3. Other Receipts		47,589	59,562	а	11,973
	4. Staff Costs		44,444	48,977		
	5.Loan Interest and Capital Repayments		0	0		
	6. Total other payments		128,559	93,557	b	-35,002
	7. Balance Carried Forward		34,812	101,840		
	8. Total Cash & Investments		34,812	101,840		
	9. Total Fixed Assets		860,358	860,358		
	10, Total Borrowings		0	0		
а	Increase					
	Explanation					
	Increase			20000		
	Settlemnet of Court Case Town all Trust			30000	due to covid	
	Newsletter			1504	add to dovid	
				31504		
	Decrease			31304		
	rent now included in Charity finance	S	15600			
	Town Hall Trust Newsletter		2000			
	Newsletter	-	2509 20109			
	Net Increase	-	11395			
b.	Decrease					is.
	Explanation				, (	2.5,
	Decrease				· lul	•1
	Grants given 3	9560			Inne	13
		0120			MY	2
	Street Lighting	2153			2	
	- 5	1833				
	Grants given			7468		
	Electricity			8233		
	Street Lighting			833		
				16534		
	net decrease		-35299			
	plus other minor adjustments					

All other variations below 15%

# ### BISHOPS CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 #### COPENING BALANCE RECEIPTS #### 2020-2021 ### 34,811.89 209,561.62 244,373.51 142,533.23

LESS PAYMENTS

CLOSING BALANCE

REPRESENTED BY:
Unity Trust

84,366

142,533.23

101,840.28

9,924.19

70,052 91,916.09 £ 101,840.28

Chairman RFO

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS BISHOPS CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

1 Balances brought forward	Last Year 22,226	This Year 34,812
2 Annual Precept	138,000	150,000
3 Other Receipts	47,589	59,562
4 Staff Costs	44,444	48,977
5 Loan interest and Capital Repayment	s	
6 Total Other Payments	128,559	93,557
7 Balance carried forward	34,812	101,840
8 Total Cash & Investments	34,812	101,840
9 Total Fixed Assets	860,858	860,358
10 Total Borrowings		