

# WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27  
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

### NOTICE

1. Date of announcement                      29 June 2023

2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.

Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2023, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:

Leanne Clements  
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer,  
Winchcombe Town Council,  
Abbey Field Community Centre,  
Back Lane,  
Winchcombe,  
Cheltenham  
GL54 5QH.  
Tel No: 01242 604087  
Email: [clerk@winchcombetowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@winchcombetowncouncil.co.uk)

commencing on (c)    **Friday 30 June 2023**

and ending on (d)    **Friday 11 August 2023**

3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:

- The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and
- The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.

The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.

4. The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2015. The appointed auditor is:

PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team)  
15 Westferry Circus  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 4HD  
([sba@pkf-l.com](mailto:sba@pkf-l.com))

5. This announcement is made by Leanne Clements, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Form 3PM Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

WINCUMBE TOWN COUNCIL

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the Parish Meeting's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 has been carried out in accordance with this Parish Meeting'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 Parish Meeting.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
	A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓	
B. This Parish Meeting complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This Parish Meeting assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the Parish Meeting certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the Parish Meeting had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓

M. The Parish Meeting has demonstrated that during the previous year (2021-22) it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations. (Evidenced by: confirmation by the Chairman that the notice has been published on a suitable website or publicly displayed in the local area.)	Yes	No	Not covered**
			✓
N. The Parish Meeting has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR. (See AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		

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

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

14/4/2023

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

CAROLE WARD

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Carole Ward

Date

23/6/2023

\*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to 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).

# Form 3PM Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

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 2023, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this Parish Meeting:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.			<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		✓	<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this Parish Meeting and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls met the needs of this Parish Meeting.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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 Parish Meeting and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the Parish Meeting will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published or displayed with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a Parish Meeting on:

28/06/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

3b

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

Chairman *C. R. Marcom.*

Place where the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements are published or displayed (e.g. Parish Notice Board, Newsletter, Village website, etc.).

WTC OFFICE, NOTICEBOARDS X3, WTC WEBSITE

Form 3PM Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	559164	455151	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	231580	248380	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	754043	114848	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	37134	47284	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	12861	25780	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Parish Meeting's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	1039640	193698	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	455151	551617	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	394073	547962	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	3330040	3330040	"The value of all the property the Parish Meeting owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March."
10. Total borrowings	492335	476764	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 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 Parish Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman before being presented to the Parish Meeting for approval

*J.R. Maron*

Date

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

as recorded in minute reference:

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

*J.R. Maron*