

Community and Town Councils in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of body: Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	110487	136952	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year. <u>2023 figure restated due to incorrect VAT owing recorded and carried forward, plus VAT overclaims identified by internal auditor which will be adjusted in Q 1 2024</u>
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	218328	249758	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	52895	48493	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants <u>2023 Re-stated as per line 1</u>
4. (-) Staff costs	113272	149898	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0.00	0.00	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	131485	175589	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5). <u>2023 Re-stated as per line 1</u>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	136952	109715	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6). <u>2023 Re-stated as per line 1</u>
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	6830	6190	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end. <u>2023 Re-stated due to incorrect debtors recorded which did not include correct VAT recoverable.</u>
9. (+) Total cash and investments	132638	104523	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	2516	997	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.

11. (=) Balances carried forward	136952	109715	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10). <u>2023 Re-stated as per line 1</u>
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	449357	4314427	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0.00	0.00	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2024, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: - effective financial management during the year; and - the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.	Yes		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	Yes		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	Yes		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	Yes		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	Yes		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6
		N/A		

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

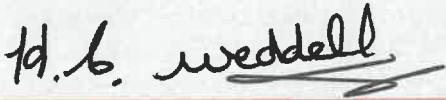
Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement	
1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000	Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 was £9.93 per elector. In 2023-24, the Council made payments totalling £2110 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.
2.	
3.	

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.	Approval by the Council I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:
	Minute ref: 2024/23
RFO signature: 	Chair signature: 
Name: Catherine Kennedy, Responsible Financial Officer	Name: Cllr. Rev. Heather Weddell
Date: 22nd May 2024	Date: 22nd May 2024