

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body:

Sesswick Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2020 (£)	31 March 2021 (£)					
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments							
1. Balances brought forward	6211	6291	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.				
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	3000	5000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	88	149	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	1263	2161	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	Nil	Nil	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	1745	1188	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	6291	8091	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal $(1+2+3) - (4+5+6)$.				
Statement of balances							
8. (+) Debtors	Nil	Nil	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	6291	8091	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	Nil	Nil	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	6291	8091	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of $(8+9-10)$.				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	19,398	19,308	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.				
13. Total borrowing	Nil	Nil	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓				

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, 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 2021, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective financial management during the year; and • the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	✓		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.	✓		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/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		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.	✓		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/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		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.	✓		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/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	✓		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.	✓		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 – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	Yes	No	N/A	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* 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 2020-21 was £8.32 per elector.

In 2020-21, the Council made payments totalling £ NIL 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/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee 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	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee
I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.	I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: <i>J. Picken</i>	Minute ref: <i>1393 minute Book 21/41</i>
Name: <i>Jan Picken</i>	Chair signature: <i>S. Heather Rowland</i>
Date: <i>23.6.21</i>	Name: <i>S. HEATHER ROWLAND</i>
	Date: <i>23.6.2021</i>

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of:

Sesswick Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion - Unqualified

On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's/Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council/Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

I draw the body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the body.

Approval of accounts

The Council approved its Annual Governance Statement before receiving the Internal Audit report. The Internal Audit report is an important element of the assurance the Council receives over its system of internal control that its reports on in the Annual Governance Statement. When approving the Annual Governance Statement, the Council lacked the evidence to support its assertions. We recommend that for 2022-23 onwards, the Council receives and considers the Internal Audit report before it approves its Annual Governance Statement.

Clerk's contract of employment

S.1 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA1996), requires the Council to provide its Clerk with a written contract or a written statement of the specified terms of employment under within two months of starting employment. As part of the audit, we sought evidence that the Council had complied with section 1 of ERA 1996 in respect of its clerk during 2020-21. We were not provided with a copy of the clerk's contract of employment for the clerk appointed in January 2021. While her appointment only lasted a relatively short time it is important that the Council properly records the terms and conditions of employment. WE recommend that the Council issues a contract of employment as soon as new officers are appointed.



Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 09/11/2022

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body:

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.					
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.					
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.					
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.					
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.					
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.					
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.					
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.					

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: **SESSWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEE ISSUE 1 IN INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO PETTY CASH
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	