

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body: Abertillery and Llanhilleth 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	0 49,706	0 127,453	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	0 234,000	0 240,042	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.												
3. (+) Total other receipts	0 75,080	0 35,096	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.												
4. (-) Staff costs	0 45,982	0 80,189	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	0 0	0 0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).												
6. (-) Total other payments	0 188,352	0 115,047	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	0 127,452	0 207,354	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).												
Statement of balances															
8. (+) Debtors	0 0	0 0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.												
9. (+) Total cash and investments	0 127,452	0 207,354	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	0 0	0 0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.												
11. (=) Balances carried forward	0 127,452	0 207,354	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).												
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0 206,015	0 206,015	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 0	0 0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).												
14. Trust funds disclosure note	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Yes</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">No</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">c</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td style="text-align: center;">c</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	N/A	c	x	c	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Yes</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">No</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">c</td> <td style="text-align: center;">c</td> <td style="text-align: center;">c</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	N/A	c	c	c	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).
Yes	No	N/A													
c	x	c													
Yes	No	N/A													
c	c	c													

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

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*		
<p>1. We have put in place arrangements for:</p> <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
<p>2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.</p>	✓	✗	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
<p>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.</p>	✗	✓	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
<p>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.</p>	✓	✗	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
<p>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.</p>	✓	✗	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
<p>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.</p>	✓	✗	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
<p>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.</p>	✗	✓	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
<p>8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.</p>	✗	✓	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
<p>9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have:</p> <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. 	✓	✓	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 £ _____ 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/Board/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

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.

RFO signature:

Name: DAVID CARTWRIGHT

Date: 05/05/22

Approval by the Council/Board/Committee

I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:

Minute ref:

Chair of meeting signature:

Name: GARY OAKLEY

Date: 05-05-22

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of **Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Audit opinion: Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, on the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give 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 legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Basis of Qualification

Approval of accounts

The then Chair of the Council signed the annual return to evidence that the Council had approved the accounts in line with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014. The Chair signed on 5 May 2022.

The minutes of the Council's meeting held on 27 April 2022 record that a report prepared by the then Clerk/RFO was presented to the Council and that the Council authorised the Clerk and Chair to complete the Annual Return. The Annual Return was not itself presented to the Council for approval.

The Council did not meet on 5 May 2022. Therefore, the Council has not approved the accounts as required by the Regulations.

Other matters and recommendations

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

Approval of accounts

We recommend that the Council only approves a properly completed annual return and not draft accounts.

Error in the Accounting Statement

The corresponding accounts for 2019-20 are not arithmetically correct. This arises from a typographical error in line 4. Line 4 Staff costs for 2019-20 should state £45,982 instead of £42,982.

Correcting this error will mean the accounts are arithmetically correct.

There is a £1 rounding difference between line 7 of the 2019-20 comparative amounts and Line 1 of the 2020-21 accounts.

These errors would have been identified by a simple arithmetic and consistency check of the accounts before approval.

We recommend that before it approves the accounts, the Council carries out a basic arithmetic and consistency check to ensure the accounts are accurate.

Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement sets out the basic standards of financial management and governance that councils should have in place. I draw attention to the negative assertions made by the Council that identifies significant deficiencies with the Council’s arrangements during 2020-21.

Response to objection at Audit Wales I draw attention to the contents and recommendations of my report to the Council dated 10 March 2025. This sets out my conclusions related to objections made by local electors to the 2020-21 accounts.

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council’s attention.

 Ann-Marie Harkin, Executive Director – Audit Services, Audit Wales For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales	Date: 10 March 2025
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