

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

sandgatepc.org.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, 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 2022/23 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.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates 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.	✓		
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.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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 authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
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

28/02/2023 26/05/2023

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

LIONEL ROBBINS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

26/05/2023

***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 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	505,326	504,502	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	80,625	88,002	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	49,380	121,253	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	30,210	30,147	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	18,569	18,569	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	82,049	172,529	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	504,502	492,511	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	504,502	492,511	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			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	482,958	477,779	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

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 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 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 authority:
	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 authority 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 meet the needs of this smaller authority.</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 authority 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>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
		✓	
			<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

***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:

and recorded as minute reference:

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

Chairman

Clerk

Attachment 1.1

Bank reconciliation – Example

This reconciliation must include **all** bank and building society accounts and other short-term investments. It **must** agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 2023" in Section 2 of the Annual Return. It will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments (cash) basis, but not when an income and expenditure basis is used.

Parish Council Name SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Financial year ending 31 March 2023

Prepared by JULIE TURWOOD (RFO) (Name and Position) Date _____

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2023:

e.g. Current account

High interest account deposit

Building society premium a/c METRO BANK
CHARITY BANK 86,365-64 | 85,765.00
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 85,000 | NATIONWIDE
HAMPSHIRE 85,000 | 85,000.04
 Petty cash float (if applicable)

£	£
14,747.74	
50,523.55	
<u>427,130.68</u>	
	109.67

Less: any unpresented cheques at 31 March 2023 (normally only current account)

Cheque number

_____ /

Add: any un-banked cash at 31 March 2023

e.g. Allotment rents banked 31 March 2022 (but not credited until 1 April)

_____ /

Net balances as at 31 March 2023

492,511-64

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (a receipts and payments account, which should be maintained even if your authority uses income and expenditure accounting) for the year, as follows:

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 April 2022

Add: Receipts in the year

Less: Payments in the year

Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 31 March 2023 (must equal net balances above)

504,502.68
209,255.66
<u>221,246.70</u>
<u>492,511-64</u>

Attachment 1.2

Explanation of significant variances in the accounting statements – AGAR Section 2

Parish Council name: _____

Please explain any variances of more than 15% between the totals for individual boxes in Section 2. We do not require explanations for variances of less than £200; however, in some cases there may be 'compensating' variances which leave the overall total for a box relatively unchanged – e.g. where there was a major one-off project in one year (e.g. contribution to village hall extension of £30,000), but a totally different expense of a similar size in the next (e.g. purchase of playground equipment of £28,000). In such cases, it would be helpful to provide an explanation of movements within each box. We also ask you to explain any change where there is a movement to or from zero. Please either use the proforma below, or complete a separate schedule if more space is required.

Section 2	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Variance (+/-) £	Detailed explanation of variance (for each reason noted please include monetary values (to nearest £100))
Box 2 Precept				
Box 3 Other income	49,380	121,253	146%	47,522 FHDC SECTION 106 FUNDS UTILISED FOR LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT 13,021 GRANT FHDC HIGHSTREET IMPROVEMENT FUNDS 8,295 FHDC CIL MONEY 7,693 SEA FESTIVAL INCOME
Box 4 Staff costs				
Box 5 Loan interest/ capital				
Box 6 Other payments	82,049	172,529	110%	60,543 106 MONEY & GRANT FOR REFURBISHMENT OF LIBRARY 11,521 SEA FESTIVAL EXPENSES 3,814 2 De-Fib 3,601 refurbishment of kiosk + toilets 3,493 Sandgate Park Play equipment 3,008 Payment of ARCHITECTS FOR QUOTEY COSTS FOR POSSIBLE PROPERTY PURCHASE

Box 7 Balances carried forward				If some of the year-end balances are earmarked for specific purposes rather than as a general reserve, please provide a breakdown. You do not need to explain the year-on-year variance for this box.
Box 9 Fixed assets & long term assets	193,591	206,441 206,441.24		Explain <u>all</u> movements in this category and not just those above 15% ADDED 3814 DE FB X 2 235286 LAP TOPS 5,94073 NEW FURNITURE 566-65 PROJECTOR + SCREEN 175.00 PRINTER
Box 10 Total borrowing				

Attachment 3

Confirmation regarding the exercise of public rights

Parish Council name: _____

The Parish Council must inform the electorate of an exact 30 working day period during which public rights may be exercised. This is inclusive of the start and finish dates.

The inspection period **must** commence no later than 3 July 2023 and must **include the first 10 working days of July**.

The elector's rights must start **exactly** one day after the annual return has been published on your website (or other free to access website used by the Council) with the statutory notice at Attachment 3.2. Publication of the annual return must be as soon as practical after the unaudited annual return has been approved by the Parish Council, and in line with the regulatory inspection period.

Working days are defined as Monday – Friday. They do not include Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

(See calendar guide overleaf, noting that because the earliest date to start a compliant public rights period is 5 June 2023 the definition of 'as soon as practical' excludes any earlier dates than this.)

The inspection period commences on: 27/6/23

And ends on: 7/8/23

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Position held: _____