

Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL

www.stowonthe-wold-tc.gov.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, 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 2020/21 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 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.			✓
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

15/09/2020 16/01/2021 11/05/2021

BRIDGET BOWEN FCA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Bridget Bowen

Date

11/05/2021

*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 planned. The annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

INTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31 March 2021

Council Name

Objective	Explanation
-----------	-------------

- | | |
|---|---|
| K | The authority did not certify itself as exempt from limited assurance review in 2019/20 |
| L | The annual turnover exceeds £25,000 |
| O | The Council is not a sole managing trustee |

Bridget.C.Bowen FCA
Internal auditor

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL

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 2021, 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.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We 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.
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.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
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.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
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.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		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.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
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.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
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
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*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:

27/5/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

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

Chairman

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

STOW ON THE WOOD TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	110,828	99,158	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	142,170	149,686	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	33,673	26,450	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	46,996	50,438	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	7,570	4,641	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	132,947	86,818	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	99,158	133,397	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	98,092	132,551	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	421,993	421,994	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	43,395	40,784	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.
		✓	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 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

[Signature]
Date 27/5/2021

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

27/5/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

HEM 20NU PAGE 287

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

[Signature]
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Explanation of variances

Name of smaller authority: **Stow on the Wold Town Council**

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- **New from 2020/21:** variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	110,828	99,158				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	142,170	149,686	7,516	5.29%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	33,673	26,450	-7,223	21.45%	YES	No Bonfire event income £4,500, no Fun Fair fee £500, no Horse Fair parking fees £1,000, business donations to Christmas lights £750 and limited fees from Farmers Market £800 all due to cancellation due to Covid 19 pandemic.	
4 Staff Costs	46,996	50,438	3,442	7.32%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	7,570	4,641	-2,929	38.69%	YES	Only two loans outstanding therefore payments reduced	
6 All Other Payments	132,947	86,818	-46,129	34.70%	YES	£32K spent on resurfacing cemetery paths in previous financial year, no Bonfire event saving £5K and council grants awarded are also down as many of the local organisations who normally apply did not as their services had been suspended due to Covid 19.	
7 Balances Carried Forward	99,158	133,397			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	98,092	132,551				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	421,993	421,994	1	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	43,395	40,784	-2,611	6.02%	NO		

Bank reconciliation

This reconciliation should include **all** bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It **must** column headed "Year ending 31 March 2021 in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be in figures.

Name of smaller authority:

Financial year ending 31 March 2021

Prepared by (Name and Role):

Date: 31st March 2021

	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/21:		
Lloyds Current Account	20,445.05	
Lloyds Fixed Bond	50,000.00	
Public Sector Deposit	<u>66,468.29</u>	
		136,913.34
Petty cash float (if applicable)		100.00
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/21 (enter these as negative numbers)		
Cheque no 003592	-£10.00	
Cheque no 003593	-£20.00	
Cheque no 003596	-£20.00	
Cheque no 003605	-£162.00	
Cheque no 003611	-£50.00	
Cheque no 003613	-£530.40	
Cheque no 003614	-£98.40	
Cheque no 003621	-£577.20	
Cheque no 003622	-£1,320.00	
Cheque no 003623	-£261.88	
Cheque no 003624	-£1,390.80	
Cheque no 003625	<u>-£21.57</u>	
		-£4,462.25
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/21	<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>0.00</u>
Net balances as at 31/3/21 (Box 8)		<u>132,551.09</u>