

## Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

### Weston-super-Mare 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 2024, that:

Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
Yes	No*		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<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>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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:

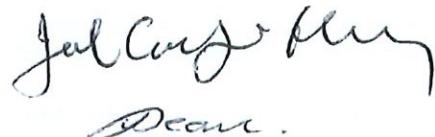
13/06/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

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

Chair  
Clerk

  
Chair  
Clerk

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## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

### Weston-super-Mare Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
<b>1.</b> Balances brought forward	<b>1,641,823</b>	<b>1,464,701</b>	<i>Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records</i>
<b>2.</b> (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	<b>2,631,385</b>	<b>2,936,238</b>	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
<b>3. (+) Total other receipts</b>	<b>774,235</b>	<b>396,389</b>	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
<b>4. (-) Staff costs</b>	<b>-1,214,449</b>	<b>-1,307,498</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments</b>	<b>-36,970</b>	<b>-55,124</b>	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
<b>6. (-) All other payments</b>	<b>-2,331,324</b>	<b>-2,485,996</b>	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
<b>7. (=) Balances carried forward</b>	<b>1,464,701</b>	<b>948,710</b>	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
<b>8. Total value of cash and short term investments</b>	<b>1,514,917</b>	<b>1,273,718</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets</b>	<b>3,666,761</b>	<b>4,738,606</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>10. Total borrowings</b>	<b>463,942</b>	<b>430,038</b>	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
<b>11a.</b> Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>
<b>11b.</b> Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		<i>The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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

13/06/2024

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

13/06/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

39

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

## Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2023/24

In respect of

Weston-Super-Mare Town Council

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2024; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

### 2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2023/24

Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Box 11b was answered as 'No' by the council, but the internal auditor answered assertion 'O' as N/a, therefore the council should have answered box 11b as 'N/a'.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

### 3 External auditor certificate 2023/24

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

External Auditor Name

BDO LLP - Southampton

External Auditor Signature

DocuSigned by:

James Evans

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Date 17 September 2024

