



Carl Hearn
Town Clerk
Tavistock Town Council
Council Offices
Drake Road
Tavistock
PL19 0AU

5th June 2024

Dear Carl,

Year End audit Cover Letter (with Interim)

An audit was carried out by Kevin Rose on Tuesday 4 June 2024. This was the Year End audit following on from the interim audit carried out on 18 January 2024.

The audit was undertaken using the standard IAC Audit Checklist, which we use for all Local Councils, which has 204 items. A total of 61 items were tested during this audit in addition to the 121 items tested and checked during the interim audit. 22 further items were checked during this audit and confirmed as being 'Not Applicable' to Your Council. All items on the checklists were tested during the year.

Areas subject to audit were;

- the Payment system (Box B)
- Risk and insurance (Box C)
- Income billing, collection and VAT (Box E)
- Payroll(Box G)
- Assets and investments (Box H)
- Bank reconciliations (Box I)
- Accounting Statements (Box J)

Summary of tests undertaken this audit

Positive response	59
Negative response	2
Not Applicable to your Council	22
Total tests carried out	83

Of the 61 applicable items tested a Positive response was obtained in respect of 59 tests. There were 2 Negative responses identified and 4 Observations were made, details of which are set out in the attached Year End Internal Audit Observations.

Summary of tests undertaken for the financial year (including the Interim audit)

Positive response	157
Negative response	6
Not Applicable to your Council	41
Total tests carried out	<u>204</u>
Tests not carried out	Nil

I am pleased to advise that no 'Non-Compliances' were identified that would give rise to a negative response on the statutory Annual Internal Audit Report.

I would like to express my thanks for the assistance and hospitality provided to me during my audit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rose'.

Kevin Rose ACMA
Director

Tavistock Town Council



Internal Audit Summary for the year 2023-24

(shaded Internal Control Objectives are not applicable to your Council)

Interim Audit Date: 18/01/2024

Year End Audit Date 04/06/2024

	Internal Control Objective	Observations	Non - Compliance	Observation Analysis			Responses				
				High	Medium	Low	Advisory	Positive	Negative	N/A	Not Checked
A	Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0
B	This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	2	0	1	1	0	0	37	0	6	0
C	This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	1	0
D	The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	2	0	1	1	0	0	14	2	1	0
E	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	2	0	1	1	0	0	17	1	7	0
F	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	1	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	0
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.	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	3	0
H	Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	1	3	0
I	Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	2	0	1	1	0	0	15	1	0	0
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.	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	1	2	0
K	If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	N/A
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.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A

2023-24 Internal Audit Tavistock Town Council

	Internal Control Objective	Observations	Observation Analysis				Responses				
			Non - Compliance	High	Medium	Low	Advisory	Positive	Negative	N/A	Not Checked
M	The authority, during the previous year (2022/23) 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).	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
N	The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0
O	(For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A
Total		12	0	0	0	0	157	0	41	0	0

The Clerk
Tavistock Town Council
Council Offices
Drake Road
Tavistock
Devon
PL19 0AU

05-Jun-24

Explanation of "Not Covered" responses

Further to our Internal Audit of your Council for the financial year 2023/24 I am pleased to submit the signed Internal Report for your Annual Return. We have completed our work and I can confirm that we have not given a Negative response for any of the Internal Control Objectives.

You will note that we have given 'Not Covered' responses in respect of Control Objective K, L and O and we are required to explain why we have done this.

- *The reason for the "Not Covered" response for Objective K is that it is not applicable to your Council as the Council did not certify itself exempt from limited assurance review for the 2022/23 financial year.*
- *At present no specific guidance has been provided to set out what the 'relevant legislation' is in respect of Control Objective L. We have tested against the requirements of Statutory Instruments 2015/480 The Local Government (Transparency Requirements) and 2015/494 The Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements), neither of which apply to your Council. The publication requirements of Statutory Instrument (2015/234) The Accounts and Audit Regulations are covered in our responses to Internal Control Objectives M and N. The Council should note that we have not considered any additional publication requirements that may apply, for example those set out in the ICO Model Publication Scheme for Parish Councils.*
- *The reason for the Not Covered response for Objective O as it is our understanding that the Council does not act as Trustee.*

The External Auditor may query why we have responded 'Not Covered' and, if so, you should provide them with a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a smaller "R" followed by "ose".

Kevin Rose ACMA
Director

Year End audit summary Tavistock Town Council

(shaded Internal Control Objectives are not applicable to your Council)



Year End Audit Date 4 June 2024

Internal Control Objective	N/A	Tested	Positive	Negative	Observations	Non Compliance
Box A <i>Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.</i>		0	0	0	0	
Box B <i>This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.</i>	6	4	4	0	1	
Box C <i>This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.</i>		4	4	0	0	
Box D <i>The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.</i>		0	0	0	0	
Box E <i>Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.</i>	7	8	8	0	0	
Box F <i>Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.</i>		0	0	0	0	
Box G <i>Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.</i>	3	21	21	0	0	
Box H <i>Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.</i>	3	8	7	1	1	
Box I <i>Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.</i>		9	9	0	1	
Box J <i>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.</i>	2	7	6	1	1	
Box K <i>If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Box L <i>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.</i>		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Box M <i>The authority, during the previous year (2022/23) 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).</i>		0	0	0	0	
Box N <i>The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).</i>	1	0	0	0	0	
Box O <i>(For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee</i>		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Totals	22	61	59	2	4	0

Tavistock Town Council Financial Year 2023-24



IAC Audit and Consultancy Ltd

Audit date: 4 June 2024

Year End Internal Audit Observations

B *This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.*

No.	Audit Test	Response	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Has the Council put in place Terms of Reference for its Committee which have been subject to formal review and approval by Full Council?	Yes	It is unclear when the Council last reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference of its Committees.	Council to formally review and, if necessary, update the Terms of Reference of its Committees.	Medium	Agreed

H *Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.*

No.	Audit Test	Response	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Assets purchased / disposed of have been added to / removed from asset register	No	The Council disposed of a vehicle during the year, this had not been removed from the Asset Register at year end. It is unclear whether other items, disposed of at the same time, also need to be removed from the asset register.	The asset register must be updated to include all items purchased/disposed of during the year. Prior to the approval of the Accounting Statements the Council to formally approve any items that have been added to, or removed from, the asset register.	High	Agreed added: Christmas Lights - £3,383.00 Renault Master Van - £25,403.00 Guildhall CCTV - £3,282.00 Market Road Retaining Wall £361,240.00 (revised post works), BG Tower - £1.00, Disposals: Isuzu Box – sold £500, Ride on mower – sold £50, Push Hoover – sold £50 Ifor Williams Trailer – sold £200 2 x Street Lights – sold £100 (pt plant & machinery).

I *Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.*

No.	Audit Test	Response	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Year end bank reconciliation agrees to Box 8 of the Accounting Statements	Yes	It was noted that the year end bank (Box 8) total includes the £1,826 held for Rent deposits, which are not held in bank accounts.	The Council to review the Box 8 value and ensure that it only includes cash and bank balances.	High	Agreed - subject to satisfactory outcome of investigations to ascertain the basis on which such monies are held by the third party scheme

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*

No.	Audit Test	Response	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
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1	Audit Extended Trial Balance agrees to draft Accounting Statements	No	<p><i>The Internal Audit Extended Trial Balance does not agree to the draft AGAR Accounting Statements but does agree to the 'Financial Statements' prepared by the Councils accountant. The Other Income (Box 3) value was overstated by £27,436 and Other Expenditure (Box 6) was overstated by the same amount. The net effect on Reserves carried forward (Box 7) was NIL as these differences affect each other.</i></p>	The Council to review the values stated for Box 3 and Box 6.	High	Referred to Council Accountant
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Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
 - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.
2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
 - The **Annual Internal Audit Report** must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - **Sections 1 and 2** must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2024**.
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2024**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2024 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**, approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2023/24**, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2024 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review. It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2024.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation must be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 5. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the bank reconciliation is incomplete or variances not **fully** explained then additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2023) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2024).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2024**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?		
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?		
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?		
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?		
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 been reconciled to Box 8?		
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		

***Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices,** can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

Tavistock Town Council

ENTER PUBLICLY VIA www.tavistock.gov.uk - WEBSITE AVAILABLE

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, 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 2023/24 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.	Yes		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>			N/A
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.			N/A
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 <i>(during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).</i>	Yes		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).</i>	Yes		
O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			N/A

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

10/06/2023 18/01/2024

Kevin Rose ACMA- I&C Audit & Consultancy Ltd

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

05/07/2024

*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).

