

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

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 2017, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller 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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on 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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has 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 smaller 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	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
		NA	

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

8/5/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

17/05/31 MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

*P. Johnson* SIGNATURE

Clerk:

*C. White*

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

# Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
1. Balances brought forward	256,730	160,934	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	162,651	165,651	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	96,823	146,933	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	61,683	62,191	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 employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	14,311	14,311	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	279,276	238,857	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	160,934	158,159	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	186,224	175,736	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	14,179,116	<del>14,179,116</del> 1,650,948	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.
10. Total borrowings	194,663	189,989	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 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 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

*[Signature]*

Date

5/6/2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

5/6/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

17/06/23 NCE

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

*[Signature]* SIGNATURE

# Annual internal audit report 2016/17 to

Enter name of smaller authority here:

OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

This smaller authority's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller 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 smaller authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	✓		
B. This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This smaller 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 smaller 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 and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this smaller authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed)

NONE

Name of person who carried out the internal audit PRINT NAME DAVID HINCHLIFFE

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit SIGNATURE *David Hinchliffe* Date DD/MM/YY 15/05/17

\*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, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

## Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

### 1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

### 2. 2016/17 External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)\* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met. (\*delete as appropriate).

*See attached*

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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

*See attached.*

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

### 3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify/~~do not certify~~\* that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

\* We do not certify completion because:

External auditor signature

*Grant Thornton UK LLP*

External auditor name

**Grant Thornton UK LLP**

Date

*14/11/17.*

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2016/17 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))

**This page is part of Section 3 - External auditor certificate and opinion 2016/17  
Ottery St. Mary Town Council  
External Auditor Report for the year ended 31 March 2017**

**Matters reported**

**Annual Governance Statement, Assertion 3 - Compliance with laws and regulations**

A member of the Authority have made payments from the Authority's bank account without the approval of full council or the town clerk. These payments were made to contractors for additional work relating to the Library Project. However, the work and corresponding payments were not approved using the correct procedures.

The Authority is reminded that laws, regulations and proper practices need to be implemented and followed when completing such projects. This also includes ensuring that the legalities surrounding the project's contract are reviewed and appropriate.

The Authority has not taken all reasonable steps to ensure that it complied with laws, regulations and proper practices.

In our view the response to Assertion 3 on Section 1 of the Annual Return should have been "No".

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

**Section 2, Accounting statements, Council Tax Support Grant**

Council Tax Support Grant should be included in Box 3. Council Tax Support Grant of £4,635 has been incorrectly included in Box 2. Box 2 should state £161,016 and Box 3 should state £151,568.

The Authority should restate the 2017 figures on next year's Annual Return and write "Restated" beneath the £ sign on the 2017 column

**This page is part of Section 3 - External auditor certificate and opinion 2016/17**

**Ottery St. Mary Town Council**

**External Auditor Report for the year ended 31 March 2017**

#### **Treatment of Debtors/Creditors**

The Council have a creditor of £20,000 relating to a ten year lease from the Police that use half of the Council building. However, as this is money owed to the Council, this should be classified as a debtor.

The lease commenced in 2009, and is therefore concluding in 2019. Due to the long-term nature of the lease, only the current proportion of the lease relating to the financial year should be included in Schedule D when reconciling the Box 7 and Box 8 balances. The remainder of the balance, relating to subsequent financial years, should be included in Box 9 and accounted for in the future.

The Council are also reminded that as the balance is paid in quarterly instalments of £500, the balance of the debtor should decrease by the amount paid with each receipt of payment.

The amount included in reconciliation between Boxes 7 and 8 regarding the debtor amount should be the value owed to the Council by the Police for that financial year. In this case, based on the information provided this would be a value of £2,000, rather than the initial full amount of £20,000. The non-current amount still owed should then be included in Box 9 of the Annual Return.

The Council should consider this when preparing the accounts for next year, and ensure they amend the Box 8 and Box 9 value accordingly. On next year's Annual Return, they Council should write 'restated' below the £ sign of the 2017 figures.

*Grant Thornton UK LLP*

**Grant Thornton UK LLP**

**Date** 14/11/17.

**Our ref DVN289**