

Community and Town Councils in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of body: Draethen Waterloo & Rudry Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	
Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.			
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	26705	23510	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	20779	20000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	-400	1891	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	5447	2685	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	18127	7459	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	23510	35257	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	23510	35257	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	23510	35257	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	19651	19651	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the 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 2024, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: - effective financial management during the year; and - the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.	X		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	X		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	X		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	X		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	X		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	X		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	X		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	X		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) 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.	3, 6
		X		

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement	
1.	
2.	
3.	

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.	Approval by the Council I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Minute ref: 97.1
Name: ROBERT JOHN NICHOLAS	Chair signature: 
Date: 25 JUNE 2024	Name: LOE CECIL
	Date: 25 JUNE 2024

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I was appointed to undertake the audit of the Annual Return of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 of **Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council** on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I am required to come to an opinion as to whether or not any matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in the Council's Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

I certify that I have completed the obligations placed upon me to undertake an audit of the Council's Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Disclaimer of audit opinion

Accounting Statement

I do not express an opinion on the Council's 2023-24 accounts.

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer below, I have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Annual Governance Statement

I do not express an opinion on the Council's 2023-24 Annual Governance Statement.

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer below, I have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in use of resources

I am unable to conclude whether or not the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Basis for Disclaimer

The Council has not submitted information it was required to provide for audit. It failed to provide a copy of its cashbook and supporting documents e.g. invoices, bank statements and minutes.

Each year the Council receives an audit notice that sets out the timetable for the audit and details of the information required to undertake the audit. Notwithstanding that the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires the Council to make up its accounts to 31 March each year and to submit the accounts to the Auditor General, the Council has disregarded the 2022-23 audit notice and subsequent correspondence requiring it to submit supporting information for audit.

In addition, I requested that the Council provide additional information related to a CCTV scheme. No such information was provided.

I have therefore been unable to complete my audit of the 2023-24 accounts.

Other matters and recommendations

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council.

Audit notice

Each year we send the Council an audit notice that sets out the information we need to complete the audit. Failure to provide this information may lead to a qualified audit opinion and potentially an increased audit fee.

We recommend that the Council reviews the annual audit notice to ensure that all required information is provided on a timely basis.

CCTV scheme

Information provided to me by a third party identified a proposed CCTV scheme. I requested additional information from the Council relating to the background to the scheme and the total costs incurred by the Council.

No such information was provided. Therefore, although I am satisfied that the Council had sufficient statutory powers to incur such expenditure, I am unable to conclude whether or not the Council followed a lawful process in doing so.

In future years, it is essential that the Council responds to all requests for additional information.

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

 Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales	Date: 27/01/2026
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Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: **Draethen Waterloo & Rudry Community Council**

The Council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	X				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	X				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	X				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	X				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	X				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			X		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	X				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.		X			

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	X				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	X				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			X		

For any risk areas identified by the Council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					
13.					
14.					

* 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).

** 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.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council are included in my detailed report to the Council dated 3rd May 2024.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Michael Fisher

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:

Date: 3rd May 2024