

Form 3PM Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

WHISTON 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 2022, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this Parish Meeting:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this Parish Meeting and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls met the needs of this Parish Meeting.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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 Parish Meeting and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the Parish Meeting will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published or displayed with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a Parish Meeting on:

18/05/2022

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE : 15 Refers

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

Chairman

* *M. B. Thompson*

Place where the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements are published or displayed (e.g. Parish Notice Board, Newsletter, Village website, etc.).

NOTICE BOARD / WEBSITE PLACE WHERE PUBLISHED OR DISPLAYED

Form 3PM Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	273,643	317,922	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	286,248	283,298	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	59,274	84,814	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	202,231	211,838	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	0		Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Parish Meeting's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	99,012	115,711	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	317,922	358,485	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	321,763	356,273	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	1,872,426	1,796,015	"The value of all the property the Parish Meeting owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March."
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 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 Parish Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman before being presented to the Parish Meeting for approval



Date

03/05/2022

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

18/05/2022

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE 16 Refers:

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



Form 3PM Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

During the financial year ended 31 March 2022 the Parish Meeting's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2021/22 has been carried out in accordance with this Parish Meeting'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 Parish Meeting.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This Parish Meeting complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This Parish Meeting assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept 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.	✓		
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. If the Parish Meeting certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2020/21, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the Parish Meeting had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>	✓		
M. The Parish Meeting has demonstrated that during the previous year (2020-21) it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations. <i>(Evidenced by: confirmation by the Chairman that the notice has been published on a suitable website or publicly displayed in the local area.)</i>	✓		
N. The Parish Meeting has complied with the publication requirements for 2020/21 AGAR. <i>(See AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)</i>	✓		

For any other risk areas identified by this Parish Meeting adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

00000000 28/04/2022

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

MR DAVID BLANCHFLOWER AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

28/04/2022

*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to 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).

Bank reconciliation – WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

This reconciliation should include **all** bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It **must** agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 2022" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis

Name of smaller authority: WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): LANCASHIRE

Financial year ending 31 March 20

Prepared by

SANDRA MAYERS TOWN CLERK/ RFO

Date:

03/05/2022

	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/2022		
Current Account 97589667	6,947.19	
Fixed Term Deposit 85172626	50,488.22	
Business Reserve Account 89979389	298,861.49	
	<hr/>	356,296.90
Less: any unrepresented cheques as at 31/03/2022		
Cheque number 6369	23.00	
	<hr/>	23.00
	<hr/>	
Net balances as at 31/3/xx (Box 8)		<u>356,273.90</u>

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL
 County area: Lancashire

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Variance £	Variance %	Required?
1 Balances Brought Forward	273,643	317,922			
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	286,248	283,298	-2,950	1.03%	NO
3 Total Other Receipts	59,274	84,814	25,540	43.09%	YES
4 Staff Costs	202,231	211,834	9,603	4.75%	NO
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO
6 All Other Payments	99,012	115,711	16,699	16.87%	YES
7 Balances Carried Forward	317,922	358,485			
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	321,762	356,273			NO
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	1,872,426	1,796,015	-76,411	4.08%	NO
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO

Previous year reduction in income due to facilities being closed for 26 weeks / some activities not permitted on return.

Increase in expenditure due to opening of facilities including major roof repairs costing £10,000 at Whiston Town Hall