

Accounting statements 2017-18 for:

Name of body: Insert name of body **MAESTECI TOWN COUNCIL**

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2017 (£)	31 March 2018 (£)	

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	8,905	9,017	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	295,500	297,718	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	15,497	14,143	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	35,281	46,624	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 related expenses eg termination costs.
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	274,804	242,135	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	9,017	29,119	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	9,017	29,119	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	9,017	29,119	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	1,700,684	1,700,684	The original 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).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, 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 2018, that:

	Agreed?			'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*	N/A		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 		✓		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.		✓		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/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.		✓		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.		✓		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and to ask questions about the body's accounts.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken 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 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.		✓		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/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.		✓		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.		✓		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 – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 			✓	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* 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.

Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Body
	Yes	No*	
1. We have considered the adequacy of reserves held by the body in setting the budget for 2017-18 and 2018-19 and have appropriate plans in place for the use of these reserves.		✓	Has met the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1989 in setting the budget requirement and precept for the financial years.
2. When awarding grants under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, we have kept a separate account of such grants and considered whether or not the benefits arising from such payments are commensurate with the sums paid.		✓	Has kept and appropriate record of grants awarded and ensured that the expenditure is commensurate with the benefit to the community.
3. The council has ensured that it has a lawful obligation to pay a service gratuity to employees* or The council has no obligation or intention to pay a gratuity to employees.*	✓		Has ensured that where it has an arrangement to provide a gratuity to staff, it has ensured that there is a legal obligation to provide the gratuity.

* Please delete as appropriate.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Certification by the RFO	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee
I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2018.	I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
RFO signature: signature required	Chair signature: signature required
Name: name required	Name: name required
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	Date: dd/mm/yyyy

Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

Certification by the RFO	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee
I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2018.	I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
RFO signature: signature required	Chair signature: signature required
Name: name required	Name: name required
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	Date: dd/mm/yyyy

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 of:

Maesteg Town Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion - Qualified

Except for the matters reported in my Basis for Qualification below, on the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

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

Basis of qualification

Accounting statement

I am unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly presents the Council's income and expenditure and financial position for both the 2017-18 and 2016-17 financial years.

- Significant inadequacies in the Council's financial records have placed a significant limitation in the scope of my audit.
- As set out in my report in the public interest entitled Failure in Financial Management and Fraud, issued in August 2022, the Council's accounts for 2017-18 include £53,911 (2015-16 - £72,967) of unlawful expenditure due to fraud by the former Clerk.

Arrangements to secure value for money

As a consequence of the failures in financial management and governance identified in my report in the public interest, in my opinion the Council did not have in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in 2017-18.

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the Council's disclosure that it failed to establish proper financial management and governance arrangements during 2017-18. This disclosure reflects the serious deficiencies identified in my report in the public interest entitled Failure in Financial Management and Fraud, issued in August 2022.

My report in the public interest can be accessed at <https://audit.wales/publication/failure-financial-management-and-fraud-maesteg-town-council>

We will continue to monitor the Council's progress in implementing the recommendations made in this report from the 2022-23 audit onwards.

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

Ann Marie Harkin

Ann-Marie Harkin, Executive Director, Audit Wales

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 11/10/2022

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