

Accounting statements 2019-20 for:

Name of body: Maesteg Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers													
	31 March 2019 (£)	31 March 2020 (£)														
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments																
1. Balances brought forward	29,119	34,653	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	362,319	302,001	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.													
3. (+) Total other receipts	10,809	27,684	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.													
4. (-) Staff costs	-46,770	-41,904	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	-320,824	-211,355	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	34,653	111,079	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	40,726	20,531	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	63,665	91,356	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	-69,738	-808	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.													
11. (=) Balances carried forward	34,653	111,079	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).													
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	1,700,000	1,700,000	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).													
14. Trust funds disclosure note	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			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).
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A											
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>											

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 2020, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
<p>1. We have put in place arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
<p>2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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	
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23	
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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	
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
<p>8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
<p>9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have:</p> <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. 	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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 Council/Board/ Committee:
	Yes	No*	N/A	
1. We have prepared and approved minutes for all meetings held by the Council (including its committees) that accurately record the business transacted and the decisions made by the Council or committee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has kept and approved minutes in accordance with Schedule 12, Paragraph 41 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. We have ensured that the Council's minutes (including those of its committees) are available for public inspection and have been published electronically.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has made arrangements for the minutes to be available for public inspection in accordance with section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972 and has published the minutes on its website in accordance with section 55 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

* 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 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 2020.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference: Minute ref: 21 - date of meeting: 22/06/2020
RFO signature: SETEVAR	Chair of meeting signature: REEVES
Name: SIAN TEISAR	Name: GERRI REEVES
Date: 22/06/2020	Date: 22/6/2020

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

Certification by the RFO 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 2020.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
<p>The Annual Governance Statement as at 31st March 2020 is correct, however as you will note from the internal auditor's report, things were not right from April 2019 to December 2019. From January 2020 steps were put in place and have continued to be in place for January 2020 to March 2020.</p> <p>Please see the internal Auditors Report for further detail.</p>	

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 2020 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 2019-20 and 2018-19 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 2019-20 include £34,987 (2018-19 - £25,502) 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 2018-19.

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

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: **Maesteg Town Council**

The Council/Board/Committee'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 2020.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee'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/Board/Committee.

	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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

	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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (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. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	See Report
13. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	See Report
14. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	See Report

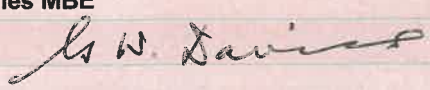
* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** 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/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated 17/06/2020.] * 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 2018-19 and 2019-20. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Mr G W Davies MBE
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 
Date: 17/06/2020