

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

(LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015)

FOR

Bicester Town Council

NOTICE is hereby given that the audit for the
year ended 31 March 2017 was completed on

20 September 2017

and the accounts are now available for inspection by local electors
in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
The requisite information as defined by Section 13(1) of the Accounts and Audit
Regulations 2015 is/is not* displayed alongside this notice

(* Please delete as necessary)

If the requisite information is not displayed alongside
this notice, it is available for inspection by appointment.

To arrange a viewing please contact

MRS S J SHIPPEY
BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL
THE GARTH, LAUNTON ROAD
BICESTER, OX26 6PS.

between the hours of 9am and 5pm

Dated: 26th September 20 17.

Signed: 

(Responsible Financial Officer)

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

BICESTER 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	NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
			✓	

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

05/06/2017.

and recorded as minute reference:

066/17/8 S.1

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

[Signature]

Clerk:

[Signature]

*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:

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
1. Balances brought forward	2,296,564	1,618,252	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	1,106,845	1,262,320	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	322,421	263,190	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	333,112	339,853	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	26,291	26,102.	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	1,748,176	880,785	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	1,618,252	1,897,023	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	1,659,671	2,061,293.	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 and assets	3,833,802	3,946,985	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	220,813.	202,921.	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:



Date

19/5/17.

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

05/06/2017.

and recorded as minute reference:

066/1718 5.2.

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:



Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of smaller authority here:

BICESTERTOWN 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

(~~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~~).

There is a breach of Proper Practices, regulations or legislation which we have noted in our opinion - please see enclosed report.

(contin

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

(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

[Signature]

External auditor name

BDO LLP Southhampton
United Kingdom

Date

25/3/17

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)

ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR
Bicester Town Council
Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017

Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Bicester Town Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017. This report must be presented to a full meeting of the smaller authority for review.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

- Electors rights period during the year
-

The following issues have resulted in the annual return being qualified. They indicate either a breach of proper practices or legislation and they require the smaller authority to take immediate action to rectify these issues.

Electors rights period during the year

What is the issue?

The 31 March 2016 Accounts were approved after the commencement of the inspection period of the exercise of electors' rights, which occurred during the current audit year.

Why has this issue been raised?

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, reg 15(3) specifies that the Annual Governance statement must be approved. This is followed by the approval of the Accounting Statements. Both statements must be published including on a website with the notice of electors' rights. The electors' rights period should start on the following day. The smaller authority has not complied with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 during the year under audit.

What do we recommend you do?

The Smaller Authority must ensure in future years that the electors' rights inspection period commences after the accounting statements are approved.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

Introduction

The following items are being brought to the attention of the clerk of Bicester Town Council. These items came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017 but are not required to be reported to the smaller authority. These items are not considered to be either a breach of legislation or proper practices or other matters to report.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

- Minor issues

The following matters are being brought to your attention as we have detected administrative matters aimed at improving the review process in the future or items that have changed that we wish you to just note. These matters are not raised as formal matters and do not require reporting to the council.

Minor issues

What is the issue?

The following issues have been raised as minor issues or omissions have been identified in the current year's Annual Return:

Section 2 of the annual return does not add up by £1.

Why has this issue been raised?

This is to draw these minor errors to the attention of the smaller authority.

What do we recommend you do?

The smaller authority should ensure in future years that the above minor errors or omissions are not included in the Accounting Statements.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners Guide, NALC/SLCC

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of
BDO LLP

Date: 20 September 2017
