

# Community and Town Councils in Wales

## Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### Accounting statements 2021-22 for:

Name of body: **DYFFRYN ARDUDWY + TALYBONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2021 (£)	31 March 2022 (£)					
<b>Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments</b>							
1. Balances brought forward	10,675	30,471	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	50,000	50,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	10,600	18,174	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	2,205	2,205	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	38,599	50,238	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	30,471	46,202	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).				
<b>Statement of balances</b>							
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	30,471	46,202	<b>All accounts:</b> 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	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	30,471	46,202	<b>Total balances should equal line 7 above:</b> Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	92,028	92,028	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	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

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 2022, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective financial management during the year; and</li> <li>the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.</li> </ul>	✓		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 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/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"> <li>discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.</li> </ul>	Yes	No	N/A	3, 6
		✓	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	

\* 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. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2021-22 was £8.41 per elector.

In 2021-22, the Council made payments totalling £ Dim under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2. Fe gafodd y taliedau canlynol eu gwneud o dan Adran 145  
Ambiwlans Answyr Cymru £500  
CFFI Meirionnydd £500

mae'r taliedau hyn wedi eu cynnwys o fewn  
"taliedau eraill" yn y Datganiad Cyfrifyddu

3. fe gafodd y taliedau canlynol eu gwneud o dan Adran 19 a 19b  
Pwyllgor Newedd Bentrâf £6,000 - A19(3)  
Grŵp Adfywio £750 - A19

mae'r taliedau hyn wedi eu cynnwys o fewn  
"taliedau eraill" yn y Datganiad Cyfrifyddu

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

## Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee 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/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

RFO signature: Annwen Hughes  
Name: ANNWEN HUGHES  
Date: 05.04.2022

### 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: No. 10  
Chair of meeting signature: [Signature]  
Name: STEFFAN CHAMBERS  
Date: 05.04.2022



# 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 2022 of:

## Dyffryn Ardudwy Community Council

### Auditor General's report

#### Audit opinion – Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, 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 governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

#### Basis for Qualification

##### Accounting Statement

I am unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly presents the Council's income, expenditure and financial position for the year due to the following reasons:

- The Council's staff costs do not include payments to the Clerk for "expenses" based on a fixed fee per duty performed of which we deem as taxable remuneration. The Clerk has been paid a total of £1173.44 as "expenses" based on being paid 90p per phone call and 50p per e-mail and letter. Included within the total of expenses are mileage and receipted expenses which we do not deem taxable. From the information provided I have been unable to quantify the total payments that should be considered staff costs. The payments relating to phone calls, e-mails and letters appear to not be included within staff costs and submissions to HMRC. We are unable to confirm when these rates were approved.
- The Council's fixed assets included within line 12 is not consistent with the Council's fixed asset register and is likely to be understated by £6500. Additionally, the Council's fixed asset register does not include all the relevant information as suggested by the One Voice Wales Practitioners guide.

##### Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, the Annual Governance Statement is inconsistent with the Council's governance arrangements for the year

- Assertion 1 – preparation of the accounting statements. The Council was unable to provide complete accounting records to support staff costs as the Council does not keep a record of payslips.
- Assertion 2 – adequate system of internal control. The Council has made grant payments and entered into contracts that deviate from the Council's financial procedure rules/regulations but has not maintained a suitable records as to seeking and receiving approval from the deviation or suspension of those rules.
- Assertion 2 - adequate system of internal control. The Council's internal auditor concluded that not all records were kept to support payments made and therefore the internal audit report is inconsistent with the Annual Governance Statement.
- Assertion 3 – noncompliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice. The Council has not provided evidence that a budget has been set in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act (1992) and that the precept has been set in line with the budget. The Act requires the Council to take into account its level of reserves, expected income and expenditure when setting its budget requirement. In setting its precept for 2021-22, the Council disregarded its accumulated reserves and therefore, in my opinion, issued an unlawful precept. We recommend that the Council sets a budget in accordance with the relevant regulations and codes of practice.

##### Other matters arising 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 body.

##### Transparency

The Council should ensure that meeting minutes, supporting papers and decisions are published. The Council should ensure that they also publish the register of Members' interests on the Council's website. The Council should ensure that they publish full copies of its prior year annual return including the accounting statement, AGS and the audit opinion.

We recommend that the Council publishes all relevant information relating to Council business on its website in the interest of being open and transparent.

**Approval of settings fees and charges**

The Council sets its burial fees to mirror those set by the unitary authority. The Council should formally confirm on an annual basis all fees and charges set by the Council.

**Council Approval Arrangements**

The Council approved the annual return prior to receiving assurance from the internal auditors. We recommend that the Council receives, accepts and consider any findings from the internal auditor prior to signing and approving the annual return.



**Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales**

**For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales**

**Date: 27/09/2023**

## Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: DYFFRYN ARDUDWY + TALYBONT COMMUNITY 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 2022.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text <b>NOT ALL PAYMENTS SUPPORTED BY ORIGINAL INVOICES</b>
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
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="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

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

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="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
14. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

\* 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 MAY 2022.] \* 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 2020-21 and 2021-22. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:

AVRIL MARIE EVANS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:

*Avril Marie Evans*

Date:

21/05/22