

Local council name: WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of public rights
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and
 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 234)

<p>1. Date of announcement: <u>29 JUNE 2017</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Each year the Council's/Meeting's (b) Annual Return is audited by an auditor appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them. For the year ended 31 March 2017 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to:</p> <p>(c) <u>WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL</u> <u>CIVIC OFFICES</u> <u>LARKIN WAY, TAN BANK</u> <u>WELLINGTON, TELFORD, TF11X</u></p> <p>commencing on (d) <u>29 JUNE 2017</u></p> <p>and ending on (e) <u>10 AUGUST 2017</u></p> <p>3. Local Government Electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts; and • the right to make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the Council/Meeting (f). <p>The auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose during the inspection period at 2 above.</p> <p>4. The audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the National Audit Office' Code of Audit Practice. Your audit is being carried out by:</p> <p>Mazars LLP, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (g) <u>KAREN ROGER</u> <u>TOWN CLERK AND RFO</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of this notice on your website.</p> <p>(b) Delete as appropriate.</p> <p>(c) Insert name, position and contact details of the Clerk or other person to whom any person may apply to inspect the accounts.</p> <p>(d) And (e) The inspection period must include 3 July 2017 to 14 July 2017 inclusive and be 30 working days in total.</p> <p>(f) Delete as appropriate</p> <p>(g) Insert name and position of person placing the notice</p>
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Councils' Accounts: A Summary of Public Rights

The basic position

By law any interested person has the right to inspect a council's/meeting's accounts. If you are entitled and registered to vote in local council elections then you (or your representative) have additional rights to ask the appointed auditor questions about the council's accounts or object to an item of account contained within them.

The right to inspect the accounts

When your council has finalised its accounts for the previous financial year it must advertise that they are available for people to inspect. Having given the council reasonable notice of your intentions, you then have 30 working days to look through the accounting statements in the Annual Return and any supporting documents. By arrangement, you will be able to inspect and make copies of the accounts and the relevant documents. You may have to pay a copying charge.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounts

You can only ask the appointed auditor questions about the accounts. The auditor does not have to answer questions about the council's policies, finances, procedures or anything else not related to the accounts. Your questions must be about the accounts for the financial year just ended. The auditor does not have to say whether they think something the council has done, or an item in its accounts, is lawful or reasonable.

The right to object to the accounts

If you think that the council has spent money that it should not have, or that someone has caused a loss to the council deliberately or by behaving irresponsibly, you can request the auditor to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law. You do this by sending a formal '*notice of objection*' to the auditor at the address below. **The notice must be in writing and copied to the council.** In it, you must tell the auditor why you are objecting and what you want the auditor to do about it. The auditor must reach a decision on your objection. If you are not happy with that decision, you can appeal to the courts.

You may also object if you think that there is something in the accounts that the auditor should discuss with the council or tell the public about in a '*public interest report*'. You must follow the same procedure as outlined in the previous paragraph. The auditor must then decide whether to take any action. The auditor does not have to, but usually will, give reasons for his/her decision and you cannot appeal to the courts. More information is available on the National Audit Office website (see contact details below).

You may not use this '*right to object*' to make a personal complaint or claim against your council. You should take such complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or your solicitor. You may also be able to approach the Standards Committee of your local principal authority if you believe that a member of the council has broken the Code of Conduct for Members.

What else you can do

Instead of objecting, you can give the auditor information that is relevant to his/her responsibilities. For example, you can simply tell the auditor if you think that something is wrong with the accounts or about waste and inefficiency in the way the council runs its services. You should make it clear that you are providing information rather than making a formal objection. You do not have to follow any set time limits or procedures. The auditor does not have to give you a detailed report of any subsequent investigation, but will usually tell you the outcome.

A final word

Councils, and so local taxpayers, must meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the cost that will be involved. The auditor will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. If you appeal to the courts, you might have to pay for the action yourself.

Who should you contact?

<p>For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication <i>Council Accounts – a guide to your rights</i> are available by calling the National Audit Office on 020 7798 7000 or downloading from the website https://www.nao.org.uk/</p>	<p>If you wish to contact your Council's appointed external auditor please write to:</p> <p>Cameron Wadell, Mazars LLP, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS</p>
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Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
1. Balances brought forward	119,577	84,068	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	307,270	331,500	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	27,876	23,364	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	130,945	179,623	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	5,142	5,142	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	225,568	222,838	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	44,068	31,329	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	125,701	282,117	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	127,408	1296,057	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	38,971	38,334	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:

KR 

Date 13/06/2017

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

13/06/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

26.0

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

