

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

LETCOMBE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for 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 2023, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that this 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 authority to conduct its business or manage 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 authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and 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 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	N/A
			✓
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, 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 and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

19/06/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

ITEM 2 i)

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman



Clerk



letcomberegispc.org

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

LETCOMBE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	100093	53652	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	21178	21178	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	23998	35304	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	5848	6380	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	85769	32257	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	53652	68215	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	53652	68215	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	656434	657402	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Elizabeth Jenkins

Date

19/06/2023

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

19/06/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

ITEM 2 ii)

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

[Signature]

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

LETCOMBE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

letcomberegispc.org

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 has been carried out in accordance with this authority'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 alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Internal audit conclusion		
	Yes	No	Not Covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

06/06/2023 - 15/06/2023

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Julian Horse

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Julian Horse

Date

15/06/2023

*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).

**Note: 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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Internal Audit Report

Page 1 of 3

Name of Parish Council: *Letcombe Regis Parish Council*

Date of Internal Audit: *06/06/2023 - 15/06/2023*

Name of RFO: *Elizabeth Jenkins*

Name of internal auditor: *Julian Horsey*

<i>Area of Audit</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Policies and procedures</i>	<p>These are accessible via the website (https://www.letcomberegispc.org/) there are clearly identified areas of the website for the public to go to. It would appear that all policies and procedures including standing order, GDPR, Safeguarding policy etc. are all fairly up to date. They were agreed at the meeting of 21/11/2022.</p>
<i>Code of Conduct</i>	<p>There is an agenda item for all meetings for members to "Declare any Interests" relating to the items on that agenda.</p> <p>The Council adopted the New Model Code of Conduct, as approved by Oxfordshire Secretaries and Monitoring Officers at the meeting of 14/06/2022. All councillors in office at the time signed up to it.</p>
<i>Communications with the public</i>	<p>The Council has a web site located at: https://www.letcomberegispc.org/</p> <p>It is clearly laid out and is easy to navigate around.</p> <p>However, under the Finance and Transparency area there is a lack of details posted for the year 2021 –22 compared to previous years. (<i>These documents had been submitted to the Webmaster but had not been updated when this review took place</i>).</p> <p>The site offers different ways for the public to communicate with the council and also actively promotes this interaction, by giving profiles of the councillor's and plenty of links to contact the clerk. As well as serving as a "hub" for other village groups and information.</p> <p>The link for Planning takes the user to a further link to the Vale of the White Horse Planning and Development site. There is no local listing of planning applications hosted on the Parish Council site. Although they are listed on the Agendas and Meeting minutes as separate items.</p>

Internal Audit Report

Page 3 of 3

<i>Annual return</i>	The listing of Receipts and Payments, Bank reconciliation and asset register provided by the RFO supports the figures recorded in Section 2 of the AGAR form.
<i>Clerk Direct Purchases.</i>	<p>The Council does not operate a Petty Cash system. Rather, the Clerk can purchase items up to £250 without recourse to the council and above that if requested by the Chairman for anything urgent or for items that have to be paid for before the order is accepted.</p> <p>For these items the clerk uses their own credit card, and claims the amount back against invoices made out to the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Council are still in the process of moving towards internet banking, which is taking time to complete. But once done this should address this process by allowing the clerk to make BACS payments and / or to have a Debit Card for the current bank account.</p>

Internal Audit signed off by:

Julian Horsey

Dated: 15th June 2023.