

## Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

ENTWhitbyTown CouncilRITY

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 2024, 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.		✓	<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.		✓	<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
	✓		<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

**\*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:

25/06/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

083c/24

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chair

Clerk

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## **Explanations for 'No' response**

The external auditor's final opinion on the 2022-23 accounts was submitted to the council on 4 April 2024, after the completion of the financial year to which the 2023-2024 accounts relate.

The auditor's view was that,

"The Council has a power to raise funds by submitting a Council Tax precept to the Borough Council. This is an important power and legislation specifies how the precept is to be set, including by determining the reserves that it would be appropriate to raise or prudent to use, having regard to the estimated level of reserves at the end of the financial year.

"Although the Council considered estimated income and expenditure in setting its Council Tax precept, it did not explicitly consider the level of reserves and reasonableness of that level as it was required to do. In our view, the Council should have responded 'No' to Assertion 1 as a result.

"We recommend that the Council adopts a more structured approach to setting its Council Tax precept, including setting out in the report to the Council proposing the Council Tax precept and/or minutes of the Council meeting setting the precept, the estimated reserves that it would be appropriate to raise or prudent to use, having regard to the estimated level of reserves at the end of the financial year."

The council set its budget for 2024-25 in January 2024, during the year under review. As the auditor's report had not been received at that time, the process followed was similar to one on which the opinion was provided. Consequently the Council has responded 'No' to Assertion 1 for the reasons given in the auditor's report on 2022-23.

This issue will be addressed in consideration of a draft budget for 2025-26 by the Finance Policy and General Purposes Committee in December 2024 and by Council in January 2025.

For the same reason, and pending the action proposed, the Council has responded 'No' to Assertion 7.

## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

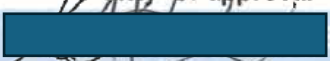
### ENT Whitby Town Council RITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
1. Balances brought forward	105,996	86,599	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	233,385	283,560	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	305,622	148,834	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	224,501	251,377	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	333,903	235,212	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	86,599	32,404	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	48,550	9,433	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	36,623	36,623	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 exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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**



Date 20/06/2024

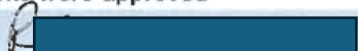
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

25/06/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

083d/24 **MINUTE REFERENCE**

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

 **RED**