

Whiteley Town Council Annual Governance Statement 2015

Audit Commission Annual Return - Report on the requirements of Section 2 - Annual Governance Statement

Section 2 of the Annual Audit return requires members to acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of accounts. The return has to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk to this effect having first agreed to nine specific statements:

1. We have approved the statement of accounts which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.

The accounts are prepared by the Clerk on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations and guidance in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils A Practitioner's Guide 2010 (England)* and scrutinised through the internal audit process.

2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.

A Risk Assessment of Financial and Non-Financial Internal Audit Controls document has been developed to review internal control systems including measures to prevent and detect fraud, an action plan to ensure improvements are carried out has been adopted as part of the Statement of Accounts. The accounts and financial systems are scrutinised through the internal audit process.

3. We have taken reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.

The Council operates within a robust set of governance arrangements, section 1 Governance, of the Risk Assessment of Financial and Non-Financial Internal Audit Controls document outlines these controls and improvements required are highlighted on the action plan.

4. We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

The Council displays a Notice of Appointment of the date for the exercise of electors' rights which for 2015 will be made on 1st June. This entitles any person interested to inspect and make copies of the Annual Return, books, invoices, receipts etc during stated office hours Monday – Friday between 15th June and 10th July 2015

In addition to the statutory requirements the Statement of Accounts and accompanying documentation will be made available on the Council website.

5 We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks including the introduction of internal controls and / or external insurance cover where required.

A Risk Assessment of Financial and Non-Financial Internal Audit Controls document has been developed to monitor and manage risks and internal controls and a review of the document and an action plan is included with the Statement of Accounts.

6. We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and carried out a review of its effectiveness.

7. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

No issues raised at internal or external audit.

8. 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 and, where appropriate have included them in the statement of accounts.

A Risk Assessment of Financial and Non-Financial Internal Audit Controls document has been developed to monitor liabilities, a review of the document and an action plan will be included with the Statement of Accounts.

9. Trust Funds - Not relevant to Whiteley.