

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for
MUCH COWARNE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending 31 March 2021	Year ending 31 March 2020	Notes and guidance
1. Balances brought forward	4616.19	6499.74	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any blank boxes and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	3600	3708	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.
3. (+) Total other receipts	50		Total amount of precept (or for DBS rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	800		Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
5. (-) All other payments			Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employees NI contributions, employees pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
6. (-) All other payments	1318.45	863	Total expenditure or payment of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
7. (+) Balances carried forward	6499.74	8944.00	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	6499	8904	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets			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.
10. Total borrowings			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.
11. (For Local Councils Only) Declare note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for the trusts it 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 2021 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 Council for approval: *[Signature]*

Date: 13.08.21

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date: 13.08.2021

as recorded in minute reference: MINUTE 26 REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved: *[Signature]*

Date: 13.08.21

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 3
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities

Page 5 of 6

Internal Audit Report 2020/21
MUCH COWARNE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
MUCHCOWARNEGROUP-PC-GOV.UK

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, 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 2020/21 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	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. The 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 debitors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR 10A 'not covered').	✓		
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.	✓		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019/20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) - The Council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not covered

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

For internal audit identified: Name of person who carried out the internal audit: 27/07/2021 MICHAEL COLE (ICCA) ID006

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: *[Signature]* Date: 27/07/2021

If the responses to 'No' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weaknesses in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

If the responses to '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).

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 3
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities

Page 3 of 6

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21
MUCH COWARNE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

We acknowledge as the members of:

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 2021, that:

Agreed	Yes	No	Yes means that this authority:
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepare its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including internal controls designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and to ensure the effectiveness of the system.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to ensure 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 it is doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of statutory rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to report 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 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 funds/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	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: 13.08.21

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given: *[Signature]*

Chairman: *[Signature]*

Clerk: *[Signature]*

muchcowarnegroup - pc - gov.uk

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 3
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities

Page 4 of 6