

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body: Cyngor Cymuned Cwarter Bach Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2020 (£)	31 March 2021 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.				
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments							
1. Balances brought forward	140,659	169,545	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.				
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	99,174	104,174	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,961	496	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	8,989	8,961	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 related expenses eg. termination costs.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	71,260	90,755	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	169,545	174,499	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).				
Statement of balances							
8. (+) Debtors	7,651	11,486	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	161,894	163,013	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.				
10. (-) Creditors	NIL	NIL	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	169,545	174,499	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	915,828	943,303	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.				
13. Total borrowing	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓				✓

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	✓		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have 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.	6, 7	
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	✓		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	✓		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8	
7. 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/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	✓		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	✓		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	Yes	No	N/A	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6
			✓		

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2020-21 was £8.32 per elector.

In 2020-21, the Council made payments totalling £_____ under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2. Cwarter Bach's long serving clerk retired in November 2020. Another clerk was appointed in December 2020, who subsequently resigned after three months. We are now without a Community Clerk. A Councillor has been appointed as a temporary Responsible Finance Officer. We, also, have a temporary Proper Officer in attendance. Procedures are in place to appoint another Community Clerk.

From the end of November 2020 to March 2021, under the guidance of the then chairperson, who has since resigned, cheques were not signed as a misunderstanding had arisen – the Clerk was not required to sign cheques as only two signatories were needed. Another issue arose as there were problems with the bank mandate. Everything is now in order with the bank and the signatories.

3. Variances in the accounting statements:

Line 6: up 27% - Playground equipment bought and sited at two of our children's playgrounds; ball stop nets bought for two playing fields; One Voice Wales costs.

Line 8: up 50% - Corresponding VAT to be reclaimed is now more because of expenditure on playgrounds, etc.

Line 3: down 95% - Asset transfer payments given in 2019 from Carmarthen County Council; playing field revenue down due to Covid restriction.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee
I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.	I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: <i>Susan Thomas</i>	Minute ref: <i>09/06/2021</i>
Name: <i>SUSAN THOMAS</i>	Chair signature: <i>J.G. Davies</i>
Date: <i>10/06/21</i>	Name: <i>10/06/21 T Glynog Davies</i>
	Date: <i>10/06/21</i>

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of **Cwarter Bach Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Audit opinion: Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, on the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Basis of Qualification

Accounting Statement

I am unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly presents the Council's receipts and payments and financial position:

- The Council did not maintain sufficient accounting records and was unable to provide me with information to enable me to complete my audit.
- The Accounting Statement has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis but the Council has incorrectly excluded VAT from the accounts

Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, the Annual Governance Statement is not consistent with the governance arrangements operated by the Council during the year:

- Assertion 1: The Council was unable to provide complete accounting records and the records that were provided were incomplete.
- Assertion 1: The Council does not have in place proper arrangements for effective financial management. The Council does not receive sufficient budgetary information throughout the year or sufficient financial report information prior to meetings being held and therefore do not have sufficient information to make appropriate decisions.
- Assertion 2: The Council does not comply with its own internal control arrangements. The Council has provided a documented arrangement for making payments My audit identified that not all payments are reported to the

Council. The controls relating to payments made were inconsistently applied and not robust, for example there were multiple instances where payments were not duly authorised by the Council.

- Assertion 3: The Council does not comply with relevant legislation:
 - The Council does not operate PAYE as it is under the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. Failure to operate PAYE exposes the Council to the risk of fines and/or penalty charges being imposed by HM Revenue and Customs.
 - The Council has not prepared and published an Annual Governance Statement
 - Prior to setting its precept, the Council does not calculate its budget requirement in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
 - The Council has not published on its website information it is required to publish by the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013
- Assertion 6: The Internal Auditor has provided the Council with positive assertions in the audit report attached to this annual return. However, the extent of the issues identified during my audit means I conclude that the internal audit was deficient and therefore, the Council did not maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit.

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in use of resources

In my opinion, the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

- The Council has been unable to provide evidence to support how the Council has secured value for money regarding its services procured from Wrenvale Nurseries and Landscapes. The Council has paid significant payments (totalling £47,287 from 2019/20 to 2021-22) to the contractor for multiple services. However, this work is not supported by an underlying contract.

Other matters and recommendations

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council.

Submission of accounts and information for audit

The Council has not provided sufficient information for me to fully undertake my audit. It is important that the Council understands its responsibilities:

- to maintain proper records
- make arrangements for the transfer of records on change of clerk
- to prepare and approve accounts each year as required by the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and

- to submit accounts for audit.

We recommend that the Council undertakes a thorough review of its internal control processes and its arrangements for the preparation and approval of accounts by 30 June each year.

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

 Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales	Date: 01/03/24
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Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: **Cyngor Cymuned Cwarter Bach Community Council**

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	yes				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	yes				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	yes				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	yes				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	yes				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	yes				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	yes				

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	yes				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	yes				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	yes				

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					
13.					
14.					

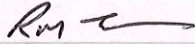
* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** 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, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated June 2021.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Richard Meirwyn Thomas
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 
Date: 15 th June 2021