



ANNUAL RETURN 2012/13

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 57/13

12 AUGUST 2013

The purpose of this report is complete the external audit process for the financial year 2012/13.

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The year 2012/13 saw the change of external auditor for Town Councils from the Audit Commission to BDO Binder Hamlyn.
 - b) The audit is based on the Annual Return that includes headline figures from the Annual Accounts, the Report of the Internal Auditor and the Annual Governance Statement signed by the Mayor.
 - c) The Town Council accepted the completed Annual Report and authorised the Mayor's signature in Minute 74/13 of its meeting of 20 May 2013.
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2) COMPLETION

- a) The Annual Return was received back by us on 2 August signed by BDO Auditor Paul Bricknell.
 - b) His accompanying letter confirms that *there are no matters which came to our attention which required the issue of a separate additional issues arising report.*
 - c) There are no actions required by the Town Council other than the public display of Sections 1 to 3 of the Annual Return for 14 days.
 - d) A copy of the Annual Return is attached to this report for information.
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Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2012/13

We acknowledge as the members of:

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 2013, that:

| | Agreed – | | 'Yes' means that the council: |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Yes | No* | |
| 1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law. |
| 2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| 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. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts. |
| 5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly. |
| 6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 the council. |
| 7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant. |
| 9 Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and , if required, independent examination or audit. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts. |

This annual governance statement is approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

dated

74/13
20 MAY 2013

Signed by:

Chair



dated

20.5.13

Signed by:

Clerk



dated

20/5/2013

***Note:** Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a **separate sheet** for each 'No' response. Describe how the council will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and opinion 2012/13

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2013 of

VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

Respective responsibilities of the council and the auditor

The council is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The council prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2013; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

External auditor report

(~~Except for the matters reported below~~)* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
(*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the council:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor signature BDO LLP

External auditor name BDO LLP Southampton United Kingdom Date 17/3/13

Note: The auditor signing this page has been appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out and completed all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission's publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Small Bodies*.