

## **LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**22 July 2016**

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

#### **MATTERS REPORTED FOR DECISION**

#### **DRAFT ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with the unaudited Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016.

##### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require all local councils and joint committees to prepare their annual accounting statements in accordance with proper practices.
- 2.2. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 define a joint committee with income and expenditure of less than £2.5 million per annum being defined as a 'smaller relevant body'.
- 2.3. In this case, the 'Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – a Practitioners Guide' has been identified as being proper practice for the preparation of accounts.
- 2.4. The Practitioners Guide allows bodies with income and expenditure of less than £2.5 million to prepare an annual return, which includes an income and expenditure account and a statement of balances, rather than a full statement of accounts.
- 2.5. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require that the Joint Committee must formally approve the Annual Return by 30<sup>th</sup> June and certify that they present fairly the financial position of Llwydcoed Crematorium.
- 2.6. Following which unless the Annual Return needs to be amended, the auditor will certify the return and send it back to the Joint Committee for publication with no further approval required by the Joint Committee. If however amendments are required, the auditor will send the return back to the Joint Committee for amendment and re-approval before the auditor can certify the

return. The certified annual return must be published by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### 3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND MOVEMENT OF USABLE RESERVES

- 3.1 The first part of the table below shows the controllable income and expenditure for 2015-16 compared to budget. It then shows the impact of interest earned on reserves and capital expenditure charged directly to reserves on the balance of reserves available to the Joint Committee.

2015/16	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £	Annual Return Ref
<b>Controllable Expenditure</b>				
Employees	162,160	155,724	(6,436)	Line 4
Premises	135,980	93,827	(42,153)	Line 6
Transport	3,000	20	(2,980)	Line 6
Supplies & Services	153,940	173,228	19,288	Line 6
	<b>455,080</b>	<b>422,799</b>	<b>(32,281)</b>	
<b>Controllable Income</b>				
Receipts/Fees	<b>(818,720)</b>	<b>(792,458)</b>	<b>26,262</b>	Line 3
<b>Controllable Surplus</b>	<b>(363,640)</b>	<b>(369,659)</b>	<b>(6,019)</b>	
<b>Add interest earned</b>		(3,869)		Line 3
<b>Revenue contribution to balances</b>		<b>(373,528)</b>		
<b>Capital expenditure charged directly to Reserves</b>		<b>1,043,256</b>		Line 6
<b>Net decrease in Reserves</b>		<b>669,728</b>		
<b>General Reserves B/F 01.04.15</b>		<b>(1,479,506)</b>		Line 1
<b>General Reserves C/F 31.03.16</b>		<b>(809,778)</b>		Line 7

- 3.2 The General Reserve is a distributable revenue reserve, which consists of the accumulated surpluses of the Crematorium's operations.
- 3.3 This can be apportioned between Cynon Valley (now part of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC) and Merthyr Tydfil CBC in the ratio of respective populations (2011 Census Data) as follows:

	<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>Cynon Valley</b>	<b>Total</b>
Relevant Population	58,802	63,238	122,040
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015	(712,864)	(766,642)	(1,479,506)
(Surplus)/Loss for the Year	322,692	347,036	669,728
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b>	<b>(390,171)</b>	<b>(419,606)</b>	<b>(809,778)</b>

3.4 The main reasons for the variances between budgeted and actual controllable expenditure were;

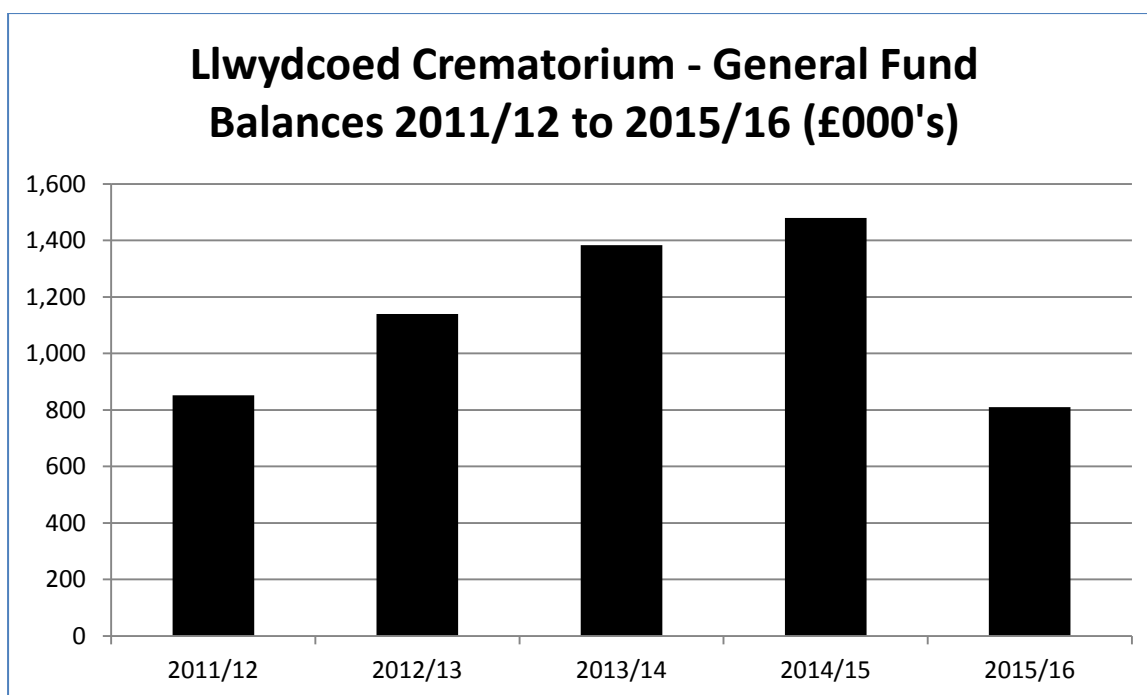
- employees' costs were under spent mainly due to reduced expenditure on agency workers and reduced National Insurance costs
- premises costs were lower than budgeted because of an underspend on general maintenance costs and gas costs as a result of the replacement of the cremators
- supplies & services were over spent mainly due to the contribution to balances being higher than budgeted, due to the reductions in expenditure relating to replacement of the cremators

3.5 The main reasons for the variances between budgeted and actual controllable income were;

- income received was lower than budgeted due to the partial closure during the period of the replacement of the cremators

#### 4 **GENERAL FUND BALANCES 2011/12 TO 2015/16**

4.1 The table below shows Llwydcoed Crematorium's level of General Fund Balances for the last five years. It can be seen that the level of the Crematorium's reserves grew steadily but has reduced in 2015/16 as a result of the costs of the replacement of the cremators. Further expenditure on the replacement of the cremators will be incurred in 2016/17 due to the final stage payments of the contracted works and the level of reserves will continue to be monitored.



## 5 BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016

5.1 In addition to the Annual Return, a supplementary Balance Sheet is provided in the table below. This supplementary information provides a further breakdown of the figures reported in the Annual Return, is purely for information only, and is not subject to audit at year end.

31-Mar-15 £		31-Mar-16 £	Annual Return Ref
	<b>LONG TERM ASSETS</b>		
742,554	Land & Property	1,997,177	
4,660	Plant & Equipment	320	
302,223	Assets Under Construction	0	
<b>1,049,437</b>	<b>TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS</b>	<b>1,997,497</b>	Line 12
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
5,786	Inventories	5,962	Line 8
68,293	Debtors	47,861	Line 8
1,438,222	Cash and Bank (Personal Account)	1,013,273	Line 9
<b>1,512,301</b>	<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,067,096</b>	
	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
(32,795)	Creditors	(257,318)	Line 10
<b>1,479,506</b>	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>809,778</b>	Line 11
<b>2,528,943</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,807,275</b>	
	<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>(420,000)</b>	Defined Pension Scheme Liability	<b>(377,000)</b>	
<b>2,108,943</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,430,275</b>	

	<b>REPRESENTED BY :-</b>		
	<b>USABLE RESERVES</b>		
(1,479,506)	General Fund Balances	(809,778)	Line 11
	<b>UNUSABLE RESERVES</b>		
420,000	Pensions Reserve	377,000	
(76,793)	Revaluation Reserve	(73,722)	
(972,644)	Capital Adjustment Account	(1,923,775)	
<b>(2,108,943)</b>		<b>(2,430,275)</b>	

## 5.2 Further information to explain the balances are provided below:

- Long Term Assets include Land, Buildings and Equipment. The value of all land, buildings and equipment is based on a written down value after taking account of the assets remaining life and estimated cost of replacement. The value has increased during 2015/16 as a result of the expenditure on replacing the cremators
- Inventories are stock included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value and relates mainly to caskets, memorial bases and flower containers
- Debtors represents monies owed to Llwydcoed Crematorium by trade debtors such as Funeral Directors
- Cash and Bank (Personal Account) is the amount held on behalf of Llwydcoed Crematorium by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. No separate bank account exists for Joint Committee
- Creditors are amounts owed by Llwydcoed Crematorium to suppliers for which goods and services were provided prior to the end of the financial year but at that time not invoiced
- Defined Pension Scheme Liability – As part of the terms and conditions of the employees of Llwydcoed Crematorium they are offered retirement benefits by the Joint Committee. Although these benefits will not be payable until retirement, the Joint Committee has a commitment to make these payments. The liability for these payments need to be accounted for at the time the future entitlement is earned
- Reserves are reported in two categories. Usable reserves can be used by the Committee to provide services subject to the need to provide a prudent level of reserves. Unusable reserves are not available to provide services
- The General Fund Balance is a distributable revenue reserve, which consists of the accumulated surpluses of the Crematorium's operations
- The Pensions Reserve covers the Defined Pension Scheme Liability
- The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Joint Committee arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment
- The Capital Adjustment Account represents the difference between the cost of fixed assets used by the Joint Committee and the capital financing set aside to pay for them

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **It is recommended:**

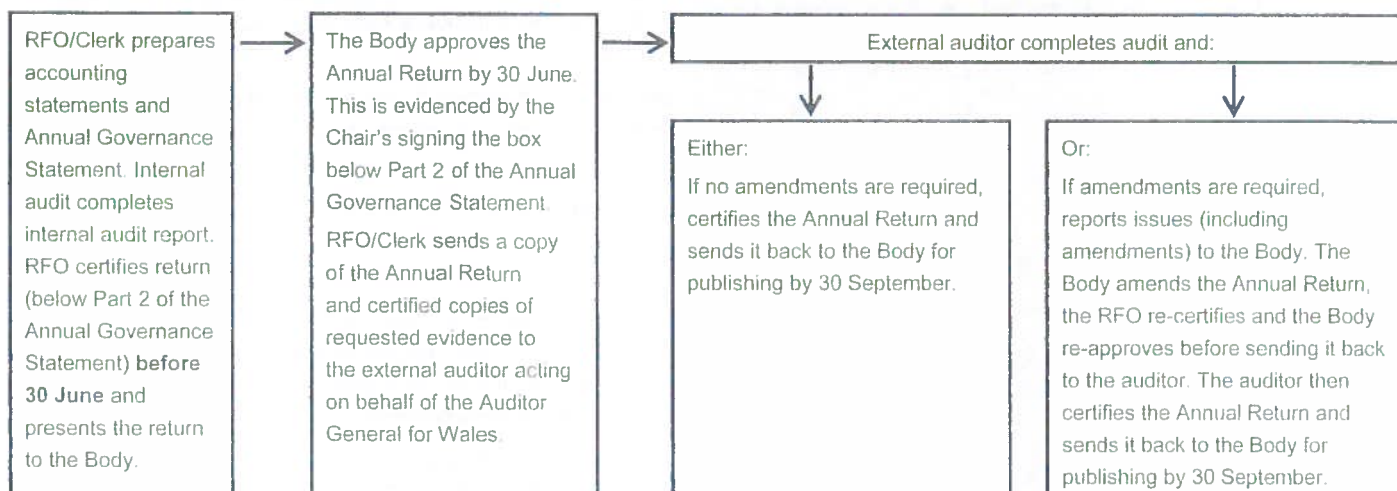
1. That members note the report.
2. That members note the unaudited Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as presented.
3. It is also requested that the Chair of the Joint Committee signs the Approval and Certification section of the Annual Return.

## Smaller local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

Smaller local government bodies in Wales must prepare annual accounts following proper practices as set out in the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide** (the Practitioners' Guide). The Practitioners' Guide states that bodies may prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return prepared by the Wales Audit Office.

### The accounts and audit process

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please complete all sections highlighted in red. Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs. Send the **original** Annual Return, together with all additional information requested, to the external auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. **Please note that copies of all documents provided for the purposes of the audit must be certified as true copies of the originals by the Clerk and Chair.** Unless requested, please **do not** send any original financial or other records to the external auditor.

Bodies should note the changes to the Annual Governance Statement. This is to be completed in full by all Bodies.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the Body for publication or display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

### Completion checklist

'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
<b>Accounts</b>	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and the body approved the Annual Return (as evidenced by the relevant signatures), no later than 30 June 2016?		
	Do the accounts add up and does the balance carried forward from last year equal the opening balance this year?	✓	
	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations, including a quantified analysis of the changes from last year to this year?	✓	
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016 agree to line 9?	✓	
<b>All sections</b>	Have all red boxes been completed and explanations provided where needed?	✓	
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.	✓	
<b>Supporting evidence</b>	Have all items and pages of supporting evidence provided to the audit been certified as a true copy of the original by the Clerk and Chair?	✓	



## Accounting statements 2015-16 for:

Name of body: 

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2015 (£)	31 March 2016 (£)					
<b>Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments</b>							
1. Balances brought forward	1,383,023	1,479,506	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	0	0	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	863,960	796,327	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	-216,200	-155,724	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	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	-551,277	-1,310,331	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	1,479,506	809,778	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).				
<b>Statement of balances</b>							
8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	74,709	53,823	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	1,438,222	1,013,273	<b>All accounts:</b> 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	-32,715	-257,318	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	1,479,506	809,778	<b>Total balances should equal line 7 above:</b> Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	1,049,437	1,997,497	The <b>original</b> asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.				
13. Total borrowing	0	0	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 (Part 1)

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 2016, that:

	Agreed?			'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*	N/A		
1. We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and proper practices.	✓			Prepared its accounting statements in the way 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 and to ask questions about the Body's accounts.	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"> <li>Discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.</li> </ul>			✓	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.

## Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We calculated and approved the Council/Board/Committee's budget requirement for the 2015-16 financial year in accordance the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and proper practices [and issued the precept in accordance with Sections 39 to 42 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.]*	✓		Properly planned its financial activities for the year and set a budget in accordance with statutory requirements.	13
2. We have received detailed financial reports setting out the [income and expenditure* receipts and payments*] and a summary of the Council/Board/Committee's financial position on a regular [monthly* / quarterly*] basis throughout the year.	✓		Effectively monitored its financial position, income and expenditure against that budget throughout the financial year.	13
3. We have ensured that the Council/Board/Committee's internal audit is independent of its day-to-day decision-making process and maintenance of the accounting records and have agreed appropriate terms of reference for the internal audit.	✓		Ensured that its internal audit function is able to undertake its work without potential conflicts of interest and with sufficient scope to provide an adequate and effective service.	8

\* Please delete as appropriate.

### Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

<p><b>Certification by the RFO</b></p> <p>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 2016.</p> <p><b>RFO signature:</b> <i>signature required</i></p> <p><b>Name:</b> <i>name required</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i></p>	<p><b>Approval by the Council/Board/Committee</b></p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Insert minute reference and date of meeting</i></p> <p><b>Chair signature:</b> <i>signature required</i></p> <p><b>Name:</b> <i>name required</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i></p>
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### Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

<p><b>Certification by the RFO</b></p> <p>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 2016.</p> <p><b>RFO signature:</b> <i>signature required</i></p> <p><b>Name:</b> <i>name required</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i></p>	<p><b>Approval by the Council/Board/Committee</b></p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Insert minute reference and date of meeting</i></p> <p><b>Chair signature:</b> <i>signature required</i></p> <p><b>Name:</b> <i>name required</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i></p>
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## Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 of:

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### External auditor's report

[Except for the matters reported below]\* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained 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.

[[These matters along with]\* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated \_\_\_\_\_.]

### Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the Body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the Body.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

\* Delete as appropriate.



## Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Insert name of body Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee

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 2016.

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.	✓				Detailed internal audit report presented to body
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				Detailed internal audit report presented to body
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				Detailed internal audit report presented to body
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.				✓	Central function and regular treasurer reports reported Joint Committee
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				Detailed internal audit report presented to body
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓		Llwydcoed Crematorium does not operate a petty cash account
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.				✓	Central function administered by Council's payroll service
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.				✓	Central function

	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.				✓	Central function
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.				✓	Central function
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓		

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 25/7/2015.] \* Delete if no report prepared.

**Internal audit confirmation**

I confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body or as a member of the body during the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: name MARC CRUMBIE  
 Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: sign [Signature]  
 Date: dd/mm/yyyy 17/06/2016



## Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this annual return. For guidance, please read the Practitioners' Guide (**Governance and accountability for local councils: A Practitioners' Guide (Wales)**) – available from One Voice Wales and SLCC. It contains everything you need for the financial year-end and the statutory audit.
2. The Wales Audit Office Good Practice Exchange ([www.audit.wales/good-practice/finance/community-council-money](http://www.audit.wales/good-practice/finance/community-council-money)) provides further information on the accounts and audit process along with guidance on governance matters.
3. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. **Please do not use correction fluid.** Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
4. **There are now two boxes for certification and approval by the Body. The second box is only required if the annual return has to be amended as a result of the audit. You should only complete the top box before sending the form to the auditor.**
5. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
6. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2015) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2016). Explain any differences between the 2015 figures on this annual return and the amounts recorded in last year's annual return.
7. Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
8. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers **all** your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. If your Council holds any short-term investments, please note their value on the bank reconciliation. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in section 1. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide\*.
9. **Every** small body is now required to send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement. Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send **copies** of the original records (certified by the Clerk and Chair as accurate copies) to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.
10. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
11. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
12. **Do not complete the Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report.** The external auditor completes this on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on completion of the audit.
13. **Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly.** This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
14. **Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**As amended by**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**22 July 2016**

**Report of the Treasurer to Llwydcoed Crematorium**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Ref:**

**Contact Officer**

Item 1 Draft Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

Steve Preddy  
(01443 680644)