

Certificate of Exemption

To be completed only by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2018, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2018 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted notifying the external auditor.

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2017/18, the higher of the authority's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Annual gross income for the authority 2017/18:

£ 10,961.98

Annual gross expenditure for the authority 2017/18:

£ 14,339.07

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority **is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £200 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority has been in existence since before 1st April 2014
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2016/17), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and that the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and submitted to the external auditor.

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Annual Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on a public website* before 2 July 2018. **By signing this certificate you are also confirming that this will be done.**

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

02/05/18

Signed by Chairman

Date

02/05/18

Email

dlewis4111@aol.com

Telephone number

(01271) 865405

*Published web address (not applicable to Parish Meetings)

www.westdown.org.uk

This Certificate of Exemption should be returned as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The internal audit for 2017/18 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	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	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. This 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 and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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 debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		

K. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
	Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.		

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

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

15/05/18

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

K. J. SNOOKS.

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

J Snooks

Date

15/5/18.

*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).

**Note: 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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

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 2018, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	YES		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES		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 Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	YES		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing 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.	YES		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect 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.	YES		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.	YES		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.	YES		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 this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	YES		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 fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			N/A

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:

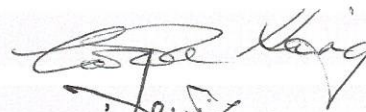
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dated

2nd MAY 2018

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval is given:

Chairman



Clerk



Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1. Balances brought forward	37813	12663	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.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	6500	7150	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3160	3812	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	3200	3300	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 employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	31610	11039	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	12663	9286	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	12663	9286	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.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	18653	18653	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.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
		No	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer



Date

4/4/2018

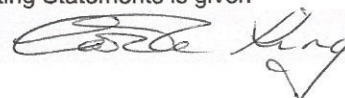
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

02/05/2018

and recorded as minute reference:

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Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given



Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): NORTH DEVON

Please provide **full explanations, including numerical values**, for the following:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- a breakdown of approved reserves if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

Section 2	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 <i>Precept or Rates and Levies</i>	6500	7150	650	10	N/A
Box 3 <i>Total other receipts</i>	3160	3812	652	20.6	See attached
Box 4 <i>Staff costs</i>	3200	3300	100	3.1	N/A
Box 5 <i>Loan interest/ capital repayments</i>	0	0	0	0	N/A
Box 6 <i>All other payments</i>	31610	11039	-20571	-65	See attached
Box 9 <i>Total fixed assets & long term investments & assets</i>	18653	18653	0	0	N/A
Box 10 <i>Total borrowings</i>	0	0	0	0	N/A
Explanation for 'high' reserves	Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year end: N/A				

EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT VARIANCE

Box 3 – Total other income.

Variation – increase of **£652** due to the following items:

	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>Variance £</u>
<u>Decreases</u>			
Parish Grant Assistance	234	182	52
CCllr/DCllr Grant	362	0	362
DALC Grant for IT	880	0	880
Bank Interest	13	3	10
Total decreases:			<u>1304</u>
<u>Increases</u>			
Reclaimed VAT (2 years claims)	0	1098	1098
TAP fund (weed spraying etc)	0	858	858
Total Increases:			<u>1956</u>

Total increases less total decreases: 1956 – 1304 = **652**

The Parish Grant Assistance received from North Devon Council decreased by £52 from last year.

Reclaimed VAT – The claim payment for 2016/17 was not received in time to be included with last year's Annual Return, and 2 years claims were received in accounting year 2017/18 instead of the usual 1 claim.

The County Council have reduced spending because of 'austerity cuts' meaning that the Parish Council has had to pay for things that have previously been paid for by the higher authorities. A TAP fund grant was received towards weed spraying of Giant Hogwart and other clearance projects during FY 2017/18.

Box 6 – All other payments.

Variation – decrease of **£20571** due to the following items:

	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>Variance £</u>
<u>Decreases</u>			
Dog bin emptying	312	286	26
Councillor training	27	0	27
Litter/Dog bins	370	0	370
Child defibrillator pads	77	68	9
Lap top	607	0	607
VAT payments	596	502	94
Solar Fund Grants	24460	3400	21060
Petty Cash payments	6	3	3
Total decreases:			<u>22196</u>

Increases

Audit fees	325	400	75
Hire of Parish Hall	90	270	180
DALC Subs	117	129	12
Annual Insurance	335	357	22
P3 footpath maintenance	711	1141	430
Highway maintenance	0	83	83
Green Field grant	0	800	800
Website	140	163	23
Total Increases:			<u>1625</u>

Total increases less total decreases: 1625 - 22196 = **20571**

The great majority of variance is because in 2016, a 'one off' donation of £30,000 was received from the developer of a local 'Solar Panel Farm' for the use of local organisations/groups. £24460 was distributed last year and a further £3400 distributed in FY ending March 2018.

The increase in the hire of Parish Hall was brought about simply because an invoice which would normally be received and paid February/March time was late and not received and paid until April. The invoices are for 6 months hire, therefore 2 invoices a year. This meant that in FY ending March 2017 only one payment for 6 months hire of hall was made and in FY ending March 2018, three payments were made.

Various P3 footpath maintenance projects were completed this year in addition to the normal routine maintenance works.

The County Council have reduced spending because of 'austerity cuts' meaning that the Parish Council has had to pay for things that have previously been paid for by the higher authorities. Drain and culvert clearing costs have been included under Highways maintenance for FY ending March 2018.

In the Budget for 2017/18, it was unanimously agreed to start giving an annual grant of £800 to West Down Village Green Field Association.

In 2016, A 'one off' donation of £30000 was received from the developer of a local 'Solar Panel Farm' for the use of local organisations/groups. £24460 was distributed last year and £3400 distributed in FY ending March 2018.

Bank reconciliation – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Financial year ending 31 March 2018

Prepared by DAVID LEWIS, RFO Name and role)

Date 4 th April 2018	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2018:		
Current account (A/c 1105709)	3453.95	
Interest account (A/c 7698779)	5801.53	
	<hr/>	9255.48
Petty cash float (if applicable)		30.70
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 2018	0	
	<hr/>	
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 March 2018	0	
	<hr/>	
Net balances as at 31 March 2018 (Box 8)		<u>9286.18</u>

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:

CASH BOOK:

Opening Balance 1 April 2017 (Prior year Box 8)	12663.27
Add: Receipts in the year	10961.98
Less: Payments in the year	14339.07
	<hr/>
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 31 March 2018 (must equal net balances above – Box 8)	<u>9286.18</u>

(See [example](#) for guidance if required)