

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

Whittingham, Callaly + Alham Parish Council
 www.northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham

During the financial year ended 31 March 2022, 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 2021/22 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
D. The precept or rates requirement, resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2020/21, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt (if the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR box 'not covered').	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
L. The authority publishes information on a free to access website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with any relevant transparency code requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2020-21) 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).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2020/21 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 (Guidance Notes)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable

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: 13 APRIL 2022.
 Name of person who carried out the internal audit: RUSSELL BAMBLEN
 Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: RBMB/MS
 Date: 20 APRIL 2022
 Name of person who carried out the internal audit: ACWA.

*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 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of

Whittingham, Callaly, Arkham 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 2022, 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<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 Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 sections' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<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 this smaller authority
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 this authority 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. For local councils only: Trusts, 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts

* For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

17 May 2022

and recorded as minute reference:

73/22/c

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given

Chairman

S. Wood,

Clerk

[Signature]

Other information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/website page is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published

Yes No

www.northumbriaandparishes.uk/whittingham

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

Walthamstow, Colindale & Alham Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	7,864	7,787	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	4,1435	4,1435	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	0	87	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	1826	1972	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
6. (-) All other payments	2686	3,323	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)
7. (-) Balances carried forward	7,787	7,014	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	7,787	7,014	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	200	200	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March - To agree with bank reconciliations.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	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) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PwLB)
			The Council as a body, corporate acts as sole trustee for and 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 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Report 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 authority for approval

[Signature]

Date 17 May 2022

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date: 17 May 2022

as recorded in minute reference: 74/22/c

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved: R. Wood.

17/5
Minute
R.W.

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 Form 2

To be completed 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 2022, 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 2022 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2022** notifying the external auditor.

Whittingham, Callalyn Alham Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2021/22, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2021/22: **41,522**

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2021/22: **5,295**

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 Form 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 was in existence on 1st April 2018
 - In relation to the preceding financial year (2020/21), 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 Local 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 a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, 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 the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2022

By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer



Date **17/5/22**

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

17/5/22

Signed by Chairman



Date **17/5/22**

as recorded in minute reference:

75/22/1A

Generic email address of Authority

whittinghampc29@gmail.com

Telephone number

07780 438986

*Published web address

www.northumberlandparishcouncilwhittingham

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2022. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT

Contact details

Name of smaller authority: Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only) **Northumberland**

Please complete this form and send it back to us with the AGAR or Certificate of Exemption

Name	ACTING Clerk/REO (Main contact) Karen	Chair Mr Brian Wood
Address	Sayer Cottage Whittingham Alnwick Northumberland NE66 4UP	Hartlaw House Whittingham Road Gianton Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4AS
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