

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Council Meeting

30th June 2021

Agenda item 11: Report of the Deputy Town Clerk / RFO

Annual Return and Financial statements for year ended 31st March 2021

Purpose of the report

- Presentation of the annual return and financial statements for approval

Introduction

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations the Council is required to approve its Annual Return (**Appendix A**) for the previous financial year, by 30th June. The return must be approved by the Council itself, and the approval cannot be delegated to a any sub-group (such as the Urgency Committee).

The annual return comprises the following sections:

Section 1: Annual Governance Statement. This requires the Council to make statements in relation to a number of internal control questions. This is a separate agenda item.

Section 2: Accounting Statements. This is a broad summary of the Council's financial position at 31st March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for 2020/21. This has been completed based on the more detailed financial statements (Appendix B).

Section 3: External auditor certificate and opinion. This will be completed by the auditor following the audit. The audit must be completed by 30th September 2021.

Annual internal audit report. This was completed by the Council's Internal Auditor on 18th June 2021.

The Council also produces Statements of Accounts (**Appendix B**). There is no longer a legal requirement to do so, but the statements provide fuller detail than the Accounting Statements included in the Annual Return, and aid transparency of the Council's transactions.

Decisions

Members are requested to approve the Section 2 of the Annual Return and the Statements of Accounts.

Susan Whipp
Deputy Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
24th June 2021