



Ringwood Town Council

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT AND RIGHT TO INSPECT THE ANNUAL RETURN

ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2008

**Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/533)**

1. The Audit of Accounts for the Council for the year ended 31st March 2008 has been concluded.
2. A copy of the Statement of Accounts, the Statement of Assurance and the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion are displayed next to this Notice.
3. The original Annual Return is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area of the Council on application to:

The Town Clerk
Ringwood Town Council
"Greenways"
71 Christchurch Road
RINGWOOD
BH24 1DH

between 9.00am and 1.00pm or 2.00pm and 4.45pm on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays), when any local government elector may make copies of the annual return.

4. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £1.00 for each copy of the annual return.

Terry Simpson
TOWN CLERK

15th January 2009

Section 1 – Statement of accounts

RINGWOOD TOWN

COUNCIL/MEETING

In completing the boxes below please explain any significant variances on a separate sheet and send this to the external auditor together with a copy of your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2008.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2007 £	31 March 2008 £	
1 Balances brought forward	368807	348496	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the council's financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2 (+) Annual precept	269180	320790	Total amount of precept received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	134969	99622	Total receipts or income as recorded in the cashbook less the precept. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4 (-) Staff costs	-213040	-224699	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all council employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) Total other payments	-211420	-219716	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	348496	324493	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	347377	330202	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 and long term assets	1080204	1212950	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties.
10 Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11 Trust funds disclosure note	YES/NO	YES/NO	The council 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.)

I certify that the statement of accounts contained in this annual return presents fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2008.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

REQUIRED

Date 25/06/2008

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the council and recorded as council minute reference C/4829

MINUTE REFERENCE

Date 25/06/2008

Signed by Chair of meeting approving council's accounts

REQUIRED

Date 25/06/2008

Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of **RINGWOOD TOWN** COUNCIL/MEETING our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of accounts. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008, that:

	Agreed – Yes or No*	'Yes' means that the council:
1 we have approved the statement of accounts which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	YES	prepared its statement of accounts in the way prescribed by law.
2 we have 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 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 which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	YES	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 have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES	has during the year given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 we have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES	considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 we have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and control systems and carried out a review of its effectiveness.	YES	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 council and reviewed the impact of this work.
7 we have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	YES	has responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8 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 and , where appropriate have included them in the statement of accounts.	YES	disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9 Trust funds – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and , if required, independent examination or audit.	YES NO • N/A	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 council minute reference

C/4829 MINUTE REFERENCE

dated 25/06/2008

Signed on behalf of **RINGWOOD TOWN**

COUNCIL/MEETING

Signed by: Chair

RED

Date

25/06/2008

Signed by: Clerk

RED

Date

25/06/2008

***Note:** Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a **separate sheet** for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Section 3 – External auditor's certificate and opinion

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2008 of

Ringwood Town Council

Respective responsibilities of the Council and the auditor

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and for the preparation of an annual return which:

- summarises the Council's accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2008; 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'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 the Audit Commission's requirements 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 wish to draw to the attention of the council;

- The Council must carry out a review to ensure that all assets are recorded correctly within its fixed asset register, and that there is consistency between the insurance values and those shown in the asset register; this will ensure assets are adequately insured;
- All fixed assets owned by the Council should be included in Box 9 of Section 1 of the Annual Return. The Practitioners' Guide states that fixed assets should be included at current book value. This is defined as an informed assessment of the open market value of the asset or the cost of restructuring in its current form. In practice this is usually the insured value;
- The Council must address the recommendations made by the internal auditor, particularly regarding the accounting treatment of value added tax and the production and review of bank reconciliations.

External Auditor's signature

External Auditor's name

Jason Treasure

Date

01 / 12 / 08

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*.