

Joint Committees

Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2022

The return on pages 2 to 5 is made up of four sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the person nominated by the Joint Committee
- Section 3 is completed by BDO LLP as the reviewer appointed by the Joint Committee.
- Section 4 is completed by the Joint Committee's internal audit provider.

Completing your return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the return. Also our extranet contains useful advice for you to refer to, see below.

Complete all sections highlighted in red. Do not leave any red box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional work and so may incur additional costs.

Send the return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to us, BDO LLP, by the due date.

We will identify and ask for any additional documents needed for our work. Therefore, unless requested, do not send any original financial records.

Once we have completed our work, the completed return will be returned to the Joint Committee.

It should not be necessary for you to contact us for guidance.

Section 1 – Governance statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of

Enter name of reporting body here:

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 2022, that:

	Agreed		Yes
	Yes	No*	Means that the body
1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the guidance notes within this Return.	Y		Prepared its accounting statements and approved them.
2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Y		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 generally accepted good practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the body to conduct its business or on its finances and have reported our financial results to our host authority for inclusion in their accounts.		N See note	Has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with general accepted good practice
4 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the body and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Y		Considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
5 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the body's accounting records and control systems.	Y See note		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 the body.
6 We took appropriated action on all matters raised during the year in reports from internal audit and external reviews.	Y		Responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external reviewers.
7 We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during tor after the year-end, have a financial impact on the body and where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	Y		Disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the yea including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

The governance statement is approved by the Joint Committee and recorded as minute reference

22/304

Date 10 08 2022

Signed by:

Chair

M J Hylle

Signed by:

Clerk

S. M. Hylle

*Note: Please provide explanations on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the joint committee will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

Enter name of reporting body here:

WHALLEY, WISWELL AND BARRON JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

	Year ending		Notes and guidance Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and reports £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1 Balances brought forward	44832	54215	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the body's financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2 (+) Income from local taxation and/or levy	859	145	Total amount of local tax and/or levy received or receivable in the year including funding from a sponsoring body. Excluding any grants received.
3 (+) Total other receipts	37188	42156	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the taxation and/or levy (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	6065	12389	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 body's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	22599	27009	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	54215	57118	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	54215	57118	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 other long term investments and assets	78421	78570	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the body 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)

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the accounting statements in the return present fairly the financial position of the Joint Committee and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

E. H. H. H.

Date

31/7/22

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the Joint Committee on:

10 08 2022

and recorded as minute reference:

22/3/05.

Signed by Chair of meeting approving these accounting statements:

M. H. H.

Whalley Wiswell & Barrow Joint Burial Committee

Section 1 – Governance Statement 2021/22 – Comments on ‘No’ answers

3. No budget was prepared although this has had no significant financial effect as income reserves are significant to cover all liabilities. We are aware that finances have not been included in our host authority accounts but will be included from 2022/23 onwards.

5. Whilst we arranged for a competent independent person to give an objective view, that an adequate system was operated throughout the year, the internal auditor was only appointed after the year end.

Section 3 – External Report 2021/22 Certificate

We present the findings from our review of the return for the year ended 31 March 2022 in respect of:

Enter name of reporting body here:

Whalley & Wiswell Joint Burial Committee

Respective responsibilities of the Joint Committee and the reviewer

The Joint Committee has taken on the responsibility of ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The Joint Committee prepares a return which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- confirms and provides assurance on various governance matters in accordance with generally accepted good practice

This report has been produced in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 October 2016 ("the Engagement Letter") and in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services 4400 applicable to agreed-upon-procedures engagements as published by IAASB.

We have performed the following work in respect of the return prepared by the Joint Committee:

- ✓ • agreed to bank reconciliation to the annual return and the bank statements
- ✓ • agreed the Annual return figures back to the trial balance
- ✓ • ensured the trial balance and accounting statements adds up
- ✓ • agreed the precept to the funding body
- ✓ • agreed any loans to the PWLB or whoever the loan is with NONE -
- ✓ • checked the comparative figures to the prior year accounts
- ✓ • undertake an analytical review of the figures and investigated any variances in excess of 10%
- ✓ • agree that the accounting statements and annual governance statement have been signed and dated as required.
- ✓ • investigated any NO answers to the Annual Governance Statement S NONE -
- ✓ • investigated any NO answers in the Internal auditor report

[No exceptions were found / Apart from the following exceptions, noted below, no exceptions were found.]

A budget to support the precept request was not prepared. This is a breach of Part 1, Chapter IV, Para 50(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which states that every authority must 'make calculations required' under the 'calculation of budget requirement'.

We have not subject the information contained in our report to checking or verification procedures except to the extent expressly stated above and this engagement does not constitute an audit or a review and, as such, no assurance is expressed. Had we performed additional procedures, an audit or a review, other matters might have come to light that would have been reported.

You were responsible for determining whether the agreed upon procedures we performed were sufficient for your purposes and we cannot, and do not, make any representations regarding the sufficiency of these procedures for your purposes.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of the joint committee. Our report must not be used for any purpose other than for which it was prepared or be reproduced or referred to in any other document or made available to any third party without the written permission of BDO LLP.

We accept no liability to any other party who is shown or gains access to this report.

Reviewer signature

DocuSigned by:
BDO LLP
2BEB056D80974E4...

BDO LLP

10 November 2022

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report 2021/22 to

Enter name of reporting body here:

WHALLEY, WISWELL & BARROW JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee's internal audit service provider, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Joint 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 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 the Joint Committee.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	X		
B. The Joint Committee's financial regulations have been met, payments were approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.		X	
C. The Joint Committee assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	X		
D. The annual taxation or levy or funding requirements resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.		X	
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.		X	
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	X		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with the body approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.		X	
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	X		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	X		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis, agreed to the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and, where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	X		

For any other risk areas identified by the Joint committee (list and other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Please see attached for comments on "No" answers given above.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:

Alan Rogers MA ACA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:



Date:

01/03/2022

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

Whalley, Wiswell & Barrow Joint Burial Committee

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22 – Comments on “No” answers

Internal Control Objective B

Not all the procedures in the JC’s published Financial Regulations were followed. For example, no budget was prepared, until February 2022 PAYE was not operated correctly, order processes were not followed and internal audit work was not instigated during year (the internal audit work was carried out post year-end).

However, based on the sample selected, payments were approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.

Internal Control Objective D

No budget was prepared.

However, reserves are considered appropriate.

Internal Control Objective E

No “sales” invoices are issued and there does not seem to be a reliable method to efficiently ensure that all income is received. However, the interim joint committee have manually reviewed all documentation related to sales and ensured that subsequent to 31 March 2022, all income due has in fact subsequently been received. The interim joint committee recognises the deficiencies of income processing and in the current year a new system is being introduced and invoices will be issued.

Internal Control Objective G

Up until February 2022 PAYE was not operated correctly and there is an ongoing dispute with the Registrar concerning her remuneration arrangements. The interim joint committee has taken steps to correctly operate PAYE and to resolve the dispute with the Registrar. It is considered that any subsequent settlement is not likely to be significant in terms of the reserves of the JC.

Overall Conclusion

It is clear that during 2021/22 (and presumably prior) there were significant difficulties between the Registrar and the then committee and that not all procedures and controls that should have operated did. The interim joint committee formed in October 2021 by the three chairs of the constituent parish councils, recognise these past deficiencies. The work they have done together with extra clerical support means, I believe, that it can be reasonably assured that the numbers to be presented in the Accounting Statements for 2021/22 are accurate. In addition, steps are underway to ensure that in the future suitable new internal control procedures are being implemented.