



**ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR
Llanwern Community Council
Audit for the year ended 31 March 2020**

Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Llanwern Community Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The audit of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

Issues Raised

- Accounting Statements - Trust Funds Disclosure Note
 - Internal Audit Checks
 - Expenditure powers - S137 power incorrectly used
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The following issue(s) have been raised to assist the body in improving its internal controls or working practices. The body is recommended to consider these but is under no statutory obligation to act upon them.

Internal Audit Checks

What is the issue?

The Internal Auditor has entered 'Not Covered' to the following test(s) on the Annual Internal Audit report which we consider relevant to the council. The Internal Auditor has not stated, or noted as required on report, when the most recent internal audit work was undertaken and when it is next planned in respect of these test(s), or, if coverage is not required, explained why not.

Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.

Why has this issue been raised?

Failure to undertake these tests result in an incomplete internal audit being undertaken and the council could be exposed to risks in these areas.

What do we recommend you do?

The above tests should be carried out in future years by the Internal Auditor. The council should ensure he/she provides a full report to the council to ensure all the activities are properly carried out and recorded.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in Wales - A Practitioners Guide, NALC/SLCC

The following issue(s) have been raised as there are minor errors on the annual return which we wish to draw to the attention of the body so they do not occur again in future years.

Accounting Statements - Trust Funds Disclosure Note

What is the issue?

The council has not answered box 14 for 2019 in error in the Accounting Statements of the annual return. We believe based on the prior year's information that the council should have answered 'N/a'.

Why has this issue been raised?

The disclosure on the annual return has not been completed, as we believe that the council is not the sole trustee of any charities.

What do we recommend you do?

The council should ensure in future years that it answers 'No' or 'N/a', to show that the council does not act as the sole trustee for and is not responsible for managing trust funds or assets.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in Wales - A Practitioners' Guide, OWW/SLCC

The following issue(s) have been raised to assist the body. The body is recommended to take action on the following issue(s) to ensure that the body acts within its statutory and regulatory framework.

Expenditure powers - S137 power incorrectly used

What is the issue?

A donation was made which could have been authorised under S144 of the Local Government Act 1972, to encourage persons, by advertisement or otherwise, to visit their area for recreation.

Why has this issue been raised?

The council incorrectly recorded items as Section 137 payments when other statutory powers existed. A payment cannot be recorded under S137 if another statutory powers exists.

What do we recommend you do?

The council must ensure in future years that it reviews the list of statutory powers available to council to establish if a power exists before relying on S137 to authorise a payment. The statutory power being used to authorise expenditure should be recorded alongside the item to demonstrate the council has properly followed its standing orders and financial regulations.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in Wales - A Practitioners' Guide, OVW/SLCC
One Voice Wales representative, One Voice Wales website - (www.onevoicewales.org.uk)
Audit Briefing, Spring 2010, BDO

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of
BDO LLP

Date: 26 November 2020
