

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

Desborough Town 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 2023, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

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

15/06/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

34./23

DesboroughTownCouncil.gov.uk

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

Chairman

Clerk





Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

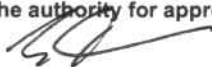
Desborough Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	284906	274765	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.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	73785	73590	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	2734	8915	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	46637	46789	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.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	40023	125361	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	274765	185119	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	269488	178523	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 long term investments and assets	318876	318876	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.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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



Date

15/06/2023

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

15/06/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

35./23

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

www.desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, 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 2022/23 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.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			NOT COVERED
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.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")			N/A
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only)			
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

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

15/6/23

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

ELIANOR S GREENE ICV2M

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

15/6/23

***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).**

Bank reconciliation

Name of smaller authority:
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Desborough Town Council
Northamptonshire

Financial year ending 31 March 2023

Prepared by (Name and Role):


G THOMSON, RFO
10/06/2023

Date:

	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/2023:		
Unity Trust Bank Current T2	923.74	
Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	22,917.29	
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	239,256.31	
		263,097.34
 Petty cash float (if applicable)		0.00
 Less: any un-presented cheques as at 31/3/2023		
WNC (Highways Authority)	-85,052.18	
Autela Payroll Services	-51.61	
		-85,103.79
 Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/2023		
Jigna Madkni	15.00	
Expressions	15.00	
S McElhinney	45.00	
Emma Appleton	15.00	
Cafe Revive	15.00	
Cllr J French	50.00	
S McElhinney	224.00	
O Kay Engineering Services Ltd	150.00	
		529.00
 Net balances as at 31/3/2023 (Box 8)		178,522.55

CONFIRMATION OF THE DATES OF THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Name of smaller authority:

Desborough Town Council

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Northamptonshire

**On behalf of the smaller authority, I confirm that the dates set for the period for the
exercise of public rights are as follows:**

Commencing on **03 July 2023**

and ending on **11 August 2023**

Signed: 

Role: Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer

NH0073

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority
County area (local councils and T) **Deborough Town Council**
Northamptonshire

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- New from 2020/21 onwards:** variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	284,906	274,765					
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	73,785	73,590	-195	0.26%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	2,734	8,915	6,180	226.05%	YES		Bank interest (up £397), investment dividends (up £4,407), room hire (up £48), Welcome Back grant (up £1,251), events (up £1,070)
4 Staff Costs	46,637	46,789	152	0.33%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	40,023	125,361	85,338	213.22%	YES		The increase comprises: Administration (up £7,040 - additional Christmas lights cost, community grants made), Democratic services (up £1,699 - election costs), Memberships and subscriptions (down £493), Projects (up £81,200 - one way system £85,052)
7 Balances Carried Forward	274,765	185,119					
VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED EXPLANATION REQUIRED ON RESERVES TAB AS TO WHY CARRY FORWARD RESERVES ARE GREATER THAN TWICE INCOME FROM LOCAL TAXATION/LEVIES							YES

240073

8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	269,488	178,523							VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Ass	318,876	318,876	0	0.00%	0	0	0	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	NO	
Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable									
Variances of £200 or less are tolerable									
BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)									

Explanation for 'high' reserves

(Please complete the highlighted boxes.)

Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year

	£	£	£
Earmarked reserves:			
Election / Parish Poll	15,000		
Office redecoration	2,500		
Christmas Lights: Min, installation,	3,500		
Neighbourhood Plan	9,000		
Multi wheeled sports facility	4,000		
Premises equipment	3,000		
Enabling crime detection by CCTV	10,000		
General Town Improvements	5,000		
Tree planting	2,000		
Roads Improvements Consultation	36,000		
Road Imps (one way)	1,948		
Portable hearing loop	2,500		
Youth activities	45,000		
		139,448	
General reserve			
		0	
Total reserves (must agree to Box 7)	185,119	-45,672	139,448