



FINANCE COMMITTEE

16th October 2022

Dear Councillor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Finance Committee at which your attendance is summoned, will be held at **Teignmouth Town Council, Bitton House, Bitton Park Road, Teignmouth, TQ149DF** on **Thursday, 20th October, 2022** at **3.00 pm** to transact the business specified in the Agenda as set out.

Iain Wedlake
Town Clerk

Distribution: Councillors J Atkins (Chair), P Williams (Vice-Chair), R Ash, Orme, I Palmer and C Williams



For information – to be taken as read:

- 1** ***Declarations of Interest*** – Members are reminded that they should declare any interest in the items to be considered and are also advised that the timescale to alter their stated interests with the District Council’s Monitoring Officer is 28 days.
- 2** ***Items requiring urgent attention*** – to consider those items which, in the opinion of the Committee Chair, should be considered by the meeting as matter of urgency (if any). To be taken at the end of the meeting.
- 3** ***The Freedom of Information Act 2000*** deems that all information held by this Council should be freely available to the public unless it falls under one of 23 exemptions.
- 4** ***The Data Protection Act 2018*** precludes this Authority from publishing the names, addresses or other private information of individuals unless written permission is given by the individual for such details to be made public. Therefore, where necessary, personal details have been removed from the papers attached to ensure that information held is available, but individuals are protected.
- 5** ***Mobile telephones*** Councillors and members of the public are requested to ensure that mobile phones are switched to ‘silent’ during the meeting to avoid disruption.
- 6** ***Recording*** this meeting may be filmed or audio taped.
- 7** ***Public Participation:***
Members of the public will be given an opportunity to address Councillors present at this meeting regarding agenda items, at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public will also be given an opportunity to discuss Town Council activities not on the current agenda after the close of the meeting. The comments of members of the public and electors of the parish who speak before the start of the meeting or following the close of the meeting will not form part of the Minutes of the meeting.



AGENDA

PART I

(Open to the Public)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive, note and where requested, approve the reasons for apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To declare any disclosable interests relating to the forthcoming items of business (if any).

3. **Dispensations**

To receive and consider requests for dispensation (if any).

4. **Minutes** (Pages 7 - 8)

To approve, sign and adopt the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 21st July 2022

5. **Payments 01/04/22 - 30/09/22** (Pages 9 - 18)

6. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Section 3 External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22**

Following the completion of our review, please find the following documents attached:

- One document containing our completion letter, a Notice of Conclusion of Audit template and our fee invoice;
- If relevant to your smaller authority, a pdf explaining additional charges in excess of the standard fee;
- A pdf of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) on which our report is based; and
- A pdf of Section 3 of the AGAR (our External Auditor Report and Certificate).

Please note if your smaller authority falls in the £1 - £25,000 banding, you will have been charged the minimum fee of £200 (plus any administrative charges if relevant) plus VAT for having a limited assurance review in accordance with the scale of fees for reporting years 2017/18 to 2021/22.

These fees are set by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited and can be found using this link <http://www.localaudits.co.uk/fees.html>

7. **Appointment of External auditors by SAAA**

To resolve to stay opted into the external audit scheme.



Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements

Dear Clerk/RFO/Chairman, Teignmouth Town Council,

Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is **less than £6.5 million**.

The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. Now that the submission deadline for the 2021-22 Annual Governance and Accountability Returns has passed, this is to advise you of the option to opt-out of the next round of 5-year audit appointments.

All authorities require an appointed external auditor even if the authority meets the criteria to qualify for exemption, as a Certificate of Exemption is required to be submitted to the external auditor and the auditor must be in place in case of objections from local electors

During the previous 5-year period **all** smaller authorities were 'opted-in' to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA - no authority decided to 'opt-out' and follow the various complex procedures required under statute to appoint their own external auditor. **If you wish to continue as part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime then no action is required, you will remain part of central scheme.**

However, all authorities must be given the option to opt-out of the central procurement and appointment scheme and appoint their own external auditor for the next 5-year period, although the process is onerous for smaller authorities.

This communication is to advise that whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out within **8 weeks** of this communication but no later than **28 October 2022**; this decision must be communicated to SAAA via e mail to admin@saaa.co.uk.

If notification of your decision to opt out is not received within this 8-week period, then your authority will be regarded as opted-in for the next five-year period beginning on 1 April 2022 and ending on 31 March 2027.

Opting-out

Opting out is a significant decision which requires careful consideration; to assist authorities considering opting out further guidance has been developed to clarify what opting out means in practice. This detailed information can be found at www.saaa.co.uk

An authority that wishes to opt out must formally reach and record that decision in a way that meets the requirements of its own governance framework, by convening a full council meeting or an extraordinary council meeting.


Key implications are:

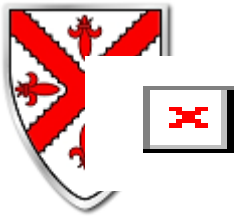
- an opted-out authority regardless of size (including exempt authorities) **MUST** appoint an appropriate external auditor;



- the appointed auditor **must** be a registered auditor as defined by the Companies Act and a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants (England and Wales).
- an opted-out authority **must** convene an appropriate independent auditor panel which meets the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (LAAA). Detailed guidance on auditor panels is available in Schedule 4 of the LAAA Act and from CIPFA;
- an opted-out authority will need to develop its own specification for its external audit contract, will need to negotiate the price for this work on an individual basis and will need to manage the contract, including any disputes, and any independence issues that may arise;
- an opted-out authority must ensure full compliance with the relevant requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act and supporting Regulations;
- any opted-out authority that does not successfully appoint an appropriate external auditor in the correct manner and notify SAAA who their external auditor is by **30 November 2022** will have an external auditor appointed for it by the Secretary of State through SAAA. **This will result in additional costs of £300 which will have to be met by the authority.**

Regards,
admin@saaa.co.uk

8. **Grant application Choices** (Pages 19 - 22)
To Determine the grant application attached.
9. **Grant application TAAG** (Pages 23 - 60)
To Determine the grant application attached.
10. **Grant application Teign Heritage** (Pages 61 - 104)
To Determine the grant application attached.

11. **Grant application CAB** (Pages 105 - 114)
To Determine the grant application attached.
12. **Grant application Eat Festival** (Pages 115 - 122)
To Determine the grant application attached.



13. **Addition of new Admin/Finance members of staff to Bank mandate**

To agree the addition of the 2 new staff members to the mandate

14. **Update on 2021/22 and 2022/23 budget preparations**

Verbal update on progress made, and to give officers any indications to be considered for the 2022/23 budget such as acceptable percentage rise.

15. **Summer entertainment report from Prom Prom (Pages 123 - 136)**

16. **Non Finance councillor to check bank reconciliations monthly**

To find Non-Finance councillors to check bank reconciliation's going forward

17. **Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting 19/01/2023