

SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting	Full Town Council, Item 10.15
Date	1 st December 2020
Author	Liz Evans, Responsible Financial Officer
Subject	External Auditor Report (AGAR) 2019-20

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform councillors of the comments raised by the External Auditor in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020.
- 1.2 This report was presented and agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 17 November 2020

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 It is the requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that a smaller authority with a gross annual income and expenditure exceeding £25,000 but which does not exceed £6.5 million has to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The closing balances of the year end accounts are used, and the internal auditor has to submit a report. The AGAR was submitted to external audit and the comments of the external auditor are:

- On the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
- Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:
The smaller authority has confirmed that it has not complied with the governance assertion in Section 1, Box 5 as no risk assessment was performed in 2019/20. It is noted that the risk assessment was due to take place in the March 2020 meeting which was cancelled due to the global pandemic but that risk has subsequently been assess in June 2020. This is consistent with the Internal Auditors response to Objective C in the Annual Internal Audit Report.
The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The AGAR had to be sent back for amendment.

2.2 This statement has been displayed on public noticeboards and is on the council's website.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 For Councillors to note report.