

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS for the year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 Subject to audit

Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2QS ① 01273 471469 Fax 01273 480919
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Council Information

For the Year ended 31 March 2018

Councillors

Cllr Annabella ASHBY

Cllr Janet BAAH

Cllr Adam BARKER

Cllr Dr Amanda BOLT (vacated office 6th October 2017)

Cllr Richard BURROWS

Cllr Michael CHARTIER

Cllr Will ELLIOTT

Cllr Huw JONES

Cllr John LAMB

Cllr Imogen MAKEPEACE

Cllr Dr Graham MAYHEW

Cllr Merlin MILNER

Cllr Roger MURRAY

Cllr Susan MURRAY

Cllr Ruth O'KEEFFE

Cllr Chelsea RENTON (elected 7th December 2017)

Cllr Tony ROWELL

Cllr Esther WATTS

Cllr Stephen WISCHHUSEN (known as CATLIN)

Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Steve Brigden

Auditors (external)

PKF Littlejohn LLP Ref: SBA 2nd Floor 1 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf LONDON E14 4HD

Auditors (internal)

Mulberry & Co Chartered Certified Accountants, Registered Auditors & Chartered Tax Advisers 9 Pound Lane GODALMING Surrey GU7 1BX

Explanatory Foreword

For the Year ended 31 March 2018

The Council's statements of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 are set out on the following pages. They consist of the following statements:

The Income and Expenditure Account

The Council's revenue account, covering income and expenditure on all services.

The Balance Sheet

This sets out the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2018, i.e. its assets and liabilities at that date.

Statement of Total Movement in Reserves

This summarises the total gains and losses of the Council and their effect on the Council's reserves during the year.

Notes to the Accounts

These provide further information on the amounts included in the financial statements.

This foreword provides a brief explanation of the financial aspects of the Council's activities and draws attention to the main characteristics of the financial position.

Further Information

Further information about the accounts, and the financial administration of the Council, is available from the Town Hall, High Street, Lewes BN7 2QS. This is part of the Council's policy of providing full information about its affairs. Interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the notice board outside the Council Offices, and on the Council's website (<u>www.lewes-tc.gov.uk</u>). Other aspects of the Council's financial operations are published during the year on the website, and may be obtained on request.

Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

Year ended 31st March 2018

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- o to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs
- to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. At this Council, that officer is the Town Clerk
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

The "Responsible Finance Officer" Responsibilities

The R.F.O. is responsible for the preparation of the Council's statement of accounts in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain' (the code), so far as it is applicable to this Council, to present fairly the financial position of the Council at 31st March and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In preparing the statements of accounts, the R.F.O. has:

- o selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- o made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent, and
- o complied with the code.

The R.F.O. has also:

- o kept proper accounting records which were up to date, and
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsible Finance Officer's Certificate

I hereby certify that the statements of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI2015/234) are set out in the following pages.

I further certify that the statements of accounts present fairly the financial position of Lewes Town Council at 31st March 2018, and its income & expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Signed:..... Steven Brigden Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer Date:....

Statement of Internal Control

Year ended 31st March 2018

Scope and Responsibility

Lewes Town Council (hereafter called "the Council") is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is also responsible for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risks of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively and economically.

The Internal Control Environment

The Council already has or is putting into place systems which:

- o Establish and monitor the achievements of the Council's objectives
- Facilitate policy and decision making
- o Ensure compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations
- Identify, assess and manage the risks to the Council, including how risk management is embedded in the activity of the Council, how leadership is given to the risk management process, and how staff are trained or equipped to manage risk in a way appropriate to their role
- Control the financial management of the Council and the reporting of financial information

Review of Effectiveness

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control, and of its arrangements for internal audit.

The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditor and the executive officers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control environment, and also any comments made by the external auditor or other review agencies and inspectorates.

Our review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is completed by:

- o The work of officers within the Council
- o Routine oversight by our Audit & Governance Panel
- The work of the internal auditor
- The external auditors in their annual audit report

We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the executive officers, and plan to address any weaknesses and strive for continuous improvement of the systems in place.

We have reviewed the effectiveness of our Internal Audit operations, and have taken account of guidance issued in this regard by the Joint Panel on Accounting Guidance (JPAG). JPAG is responsible for issuing proper practices in relation to the accounts of "smaller authorities" as defined in the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Membership consists of sector representatives from the Society of Local Council Clerks, the National Association of Local Councils and the Association of Drainage Authorities, together with stakeholder partners representing the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the National Audit Office, and a representative of the external audit firms appointed to smaller authorities.

We are satisfied on all counts that our arrangements are effective and meet expected standards.

Signed	Signed
Cllr Janet Baah	Steve Brigden
Mayor of Lewes 2018/19	Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Date	Date

Lewes Town Council Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st March 2018

2017 Nett Expenditure	Cost Centres	Notes	2018 Gross Expenditure	2018 Gross Income	2018 Nett Expenditure
95,614	Corporate Admin		109,714	100	109,614
96,099	Civic Admin		117,200	28,846	88,354
47,690	Mayoralty		57,571	1,809	55,762
326,836	Town Hall		384,425	84,508	299,918
102,080	All Saints		175,997	47,975	128,022
21,074	Malling Community Centre		38,893	17,854	21,038
39,739	Pells		40,835	26,813	14,022
120,768	Open Spaces		94,485	1	94,484
27,941	Allotments		33,558	4,438	29,119
11,484	Election Expenses		6,795		6,795
35,122	Section 137 Expenditure	5	32,733		32,733
(12,816)	Other Grants and Sponsorship	16	30,292	45,159	(14,867)
911,629	COST OF SERVICES		1,122,499	257,504	864,995
(860,072)	Precept Received			944,758	(944,758)
(226)	Interest and Investment Income			943	(943)
10,056	Loan Repayment		10,056		10,056
30,948	VAT Unclaimable	14	42,006		42,006
92,336			1,174,561	1,203,205	(28,644)
(825,112)	Balance Brought Forward				(732,776)
(732,776)	Balance Carried Forward				(761,420)
586,409	Earmarked Reserve Balance B/F	20		598,712	
201,330	Transferred from General Fund			243,130	
189,027	Transferred to General Fund			203,403	
598,712	Earmarked Reserve Balance C/F			,	638,439
238,703	General Fund Balance Brought For	rward		134,064	
(104,639)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year			(11,083)	
	General Fund Balance C/F				122,981
732,776	Balance Carried Forward				761,420

NOTE: Totals may be affected by "rounding" convention

761,420

Lewes Town Council Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

Year Ended 31 March 2017 £	CURRENT ASSETS	Notes	Year Ended 31 March 2018 £
x 5,905	Stock	8	t 5,629
12,723	Debtors	9	10,360
12,725	Payment in Advance	,	10,500
38,439	VAT Recoverable	14	34,493
781,728	Cash in Hand	11	751,633
838,795	TOTAL ASSETS		802,116
	CURRENT LIABILIT	TIES	
10,019	Creditors	10	20,223
30,999	Receipts in Advance	10	1,556
65,000	Accruals	10	18,916
0	VAT Payable		
106,018	TOTAL LIABILITIES	8	40,695
732,776	NET ASSETS		761,420
	Represented by:	20	
134,064	General Fund		122,981
598,712	Earmarked funds		638,439

732,776

NOTE: Totals may be affected by "rounding" convention

Cllr Janet Baah	Steve Brigden
Mayor 2018/19	Responsible Finance Officer
Date:	Date:

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2018

1. Principal Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain (the Code), which is recognised by statute as representing proper accounting practices.

Debtors and Creditors

The revenue accounts of the Council are maintained in accordance with the Code. Sums due to or from the Council during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. Exceptions to this are payment of insurance premiums and regular quarterly accounts (e.g. telephones, electricity). This policy is applied consistently each year, and therefore, it will not have a material effect on the year's accounts or on the Council's annual budget.

Leases

The Council has no commitments under finance leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to revenue on an accruals basis.

Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserves are a means of building up funds to meet known or predicted liabilities in the coming years.

2.	Interest and Investment Income	2017	2018	
		£	£	
	Interest Income – General Funds	226	943	

3. Agency Work

During the year the Council did not undertake any agency work on behalf of other authorities or commission any agency work to be performed by other authorities.

4. Publicity

Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1986 requires the Council to disclose expenditure on publicity. Details are shown under the following broad categories:

0045

0010

	2017	2018
	£	£
Recruitment Advertising	0	0
Marketing Advertising	200	435
Other Publicity	1,850	892
Community Cinema operating advertisements	1,520	1,110
TOTAL	3,570	2,437

3,982

Lewes Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2018

5. S.137 Expenditure

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) enabled the Council to spend up to $\pounds7.57$ per head (2017: $\pounds7.42$) on the electoral roll in this year for the benefit of people in its area on activities or projects *not specifically authorised by other powers*.

Expenditure was made under this power in 2017/18 for the following purposes:

Grants to	f.
RELATE	75 0
FitzJohn's Road Foodbank	2,783
Wildflower Lewes	400
Moving Sounds CIC	900
St Anne's Church	800
Conservation Volunteers	350
Malling Tenants & Residents Association	1,000
PATINA	1,250
Now Charity Group	1,000
Care for the Carers	1,250
Lewes Community Screen	1,250
Lewes Pound CIC	500
Compass Travel (buses)	10,000
Community Transport Lewes Area (CTLA)	7,000
Lewes Town Partnership	3,500
TOTAL	32,733

Grants to bodies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau are made under other specific legal powers and are not included in the above figures.

General Power of Competence

Minute extract: Council meeting of 21st May 2015

Ref **FC2015/14.1** "Lewes Town Council declares that it meets the conditions, prescribed in Article 2 paragraph 2 of The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 (SI2012/965), and hereby resolves to adopt the General Power of Competence as provided in the Localism Act 2011 ss1-8."

This declaration has effect until the Council's Annual Meeting 2019.

6. Employees and Members

The average weekly number of 'full-time equivalent' employees during the year was 12.13. The establishment is 14 (8 full-time; 6 part-time).

The government's Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency promotes the following statement of senior employees' remuneration:

	2017	2018
	£	£
Chief Executive Officer/Head of Paid Service (Town	n Clerk)	
Gross salary received	63,933	64,617
Employer's contribution to LGPS	13,387	11,152
This represents a multiple of 2.95 compared with the	e median of all sala	ries

Members' Allowances paid in the year 3,310

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2018

7. Auditors remuneration

Fees due to Littlejohn LLP, external auditors, were Fees paid to Mulberry & Co, internal auditors, were	£2,000 £425	(2017: £2,000). (2017: £425)
8. Stock		
	2017 £	7 2018 £
Resale & civic items; protective clothing; materials	2,291	
Town Hall consumable stores	451	
All Saints consumable stores	741	
All saints resale stock	157	
Stationery	*2,265	
TOTAL	5,905	5,629
* includes stock pre-printed items, at valuation		
9. Debtors		
	2017 £	7 2018 £
	20	2
Trade debtors (No debts were more than 3 months old)	12,723	
VAT (see Note 16)	38,439	
TOTAL	51,162	44,853
10. Creditors and Accrued Expenses		
	2017	7 2018
	£	£
Creditors	10.010	20.222
Receipts in Advance	10,019	20,223
	10,019 30,999	,
Accruals	,	1,556

11. Operating Lease Commitments

The Council had the following annual commitments under operating leases at 31 March.

	2017 £	2018 £
Photocopier and doormats	2,344	2,274
12. Loans	2017 £	2018 £
Public Works Loan Board (1999 – 2023)	59,810	52,363

Public Works Loan Board (1999 – 2023) 59,810 52,363 This loan was taken out on 18th January1999 for works to the Town Hall, in the sum of £150,000 at fixed interest rate of 4.5% pa, with instalments payable half-yearly over 25 years (terms as PWLB Circular No116).

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2018

13. Pensions

For the year ended 31 March 2018 the Council's contributions were 17.4% of employees' pensionable pay plus a fixed sum of £14,000 following a revised valuation principle by Local Government Pension Scheme fund actuaries. Scheme administrators have notified employer contribution rates for the following year as: 2018/19: 17.4%+ £16,000.

14. Value Added Tax (VAT)

Subject to certain conditions, local councils may treat as "non-business" for purposes of VAT some activities that would normally be "business", even when charges are made *(Value Added Tax Act 1994 s33)*. It is possible to agree a "partial-exemption" formula, whereby a proportion of an activity can be defined as "non-business" *eg* a building containing both public halls and the council's own offices may be agreed to offer a percentage of its floor area as space available for exempt uses, and the rest defined as its business base. Expenditure and VAT paid on operation of the building can then be apportioned.

VAT paid (input tax) in relation to exempt activities can be reclaimed provided that the total amount does not exceed £7,500 for the year (average £625 per month), AND represents less than 5% of the total VAT paid on *all* goods/services in the year. These values are unchanged since 1992.

15. Contingent Liabilities

The Council is not aware of any contingent liabilities at the date of these accounts. It has accounted-for accrued commitments *(see note 10)*.

16. Council Tax Reduction Support Grant

Government changes have given Principal councils freedoms to remove/alter existing exemptions and discounts from council tax.

The Government decided that Parish tax bases would be lowered to reflect new local council tax support scheme discounts.

The funding provided to Billing Authorities includes a specified amount attributable to parish areas. The Government has made it clear that this has been provided with the expectation that they will work with local parishes and use this to mitigate the inflationary effect of the tax base reduction on their notional Band 'D' equivalent charge. Not all Billing Authorities in England have done this, but it is expected that the indicative funding that Lewes District Council will receive for passing-on to parishes will continue to be transferred as a Council Tax Reduction Support Grant (CTRSG).

Lewes District Council has made/committed the following payments of this grant: 2013/14: £89,271 2014/15: £73,534 2015/16: £62,504 2016/17: £53,128 **2017/18 £45,159** 2018/19: £37,190

The programmed reduction in the amount of CTRSG increases the calculated Band 'D' equivalent value; regardless of any change in Lewes Town Council's budget requirement.

17. Town Hall

In 2015/16 the Council commissioned a major repair/conservation programme for the Town Hall; a heritage-listed building (Grade 2), commencing with the South elevation - the High Street façade. This entailed substantial repairs to ornamental brickwork and terracotta mouldings; stone work; window frames and other woodwork, and re-laying of roof coverings. This work continued as the roof coverings of both the assembly Room and Corn Exchange were replaced. Works were funded from accrued balances in Earmarked Reserves *(see note 20)* and the General Fund.

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2018

18. Malling Community Centre

Lewes Town Council intends to regenerate the Malling (Bridgeview) Community Centre and create a new mixed use community space. This will involve major alteration and refurbishment works. The newly renovated building will offer a vibrant community space, with links to outdoor facilities, spaces for public hire, sports changing rooms, and social area/café. Architects have prepared designs, taking account of the many comments and responses to earlier consultations from current and prospective users. When these designs were presented, many of those stakeholders were able to assist Councillors in making their choice.

A design has been selected and we can now assess what grants may be available to assist in enhancing particular elements of the scheme and to plan the final stages of the programme. We will then invite tenders from building contractors and the actual timing of the works will depend upon the successful bidder (who will no doubt need to take account of other commitments), and the progress of an application for planning consent. Works will be funded from accrued balances in Earmarked Reserves *(see note 20)* and will be supplemented by appropriate grant applications and/or approved borrowing.

Lewes Town Council Notes to the Accounts <u>31 March 2018</u>

19 Information on Assets Held

	31/03/2017	Movement in the Year Acquisition s	31/03/2018	Method of Valuation
	£	£	£	
Operational Land and Buildings				
Lewes Town Hall	1,925,926	0	1,925,926	*
All Saints Centre	362,727		362,727	
Pells Swimming Pool	131,250		131,250	
Malling Community Centre	85,000	0	85,000	**
Equipment				
Computer Equipment	10,948	0	10,948	****
Franking Machine	472	0	472	****
Infrastructure Assets				
Bus Shelters	42,193	0	42,193	*
Town Seats and Benches	21,707	0	21,707	*
Waste Bins	3,027	0	3,027	*
Town Signs	5,877	0	5,877	*
Community Assets				
Lewes Priory site	24,000	0	24,000	**
The Pells Land	15,000	0	15,000	**
Allotments	26,500	0	26,500	**
The Town Plate	237,790	0	237,790	**
Works of Art	252,500	0	252,500	**
St. Michael's Town Clock	21,000	0	21,000	**
Civic Robes	35,670	0	35,670	**
Antique House Clock	2,370	0	2,370	**
Antique Books	2,100	0	2,100	**
War Memorial	1	0	1	***
Land at Landport Bottom (50% share with Lewes District Council)	1	0	1	***
Love Lane Tree Belt	1	0	1	***
Tom Paine Statue, Library terrace [private gift to town]	30,000		30,000	
in the second	3,206,060		3,236,060	-

* Valued at open market value less depreciation prior to 31/3/05 (depreciation not charged subsequently, due to change in local councils' statutory accounting regime)

** Valued at open market value at 1/4/2004

*** Nominal value/community asset

**** Valuation for insurance purposes

Assets are insured at replacement cost values, except the Priory and War Memorial, which are insured on a first-loss basis.

Lewes Town Council Notes to the Accounts 31 March 2018

20

20		Opening Balance	Transfer from General Fund	Transfer to General Fund	Total
		£	£	£	£
Earr	narked Reserves				
R 1	Town Hall	0	40,000	40,000	0
R2	All Saints Centre	34,800	10,000	26,000	18,800
R3	Open Spaces	3,000	3,000	0	6,000
R 4	Lewes Priory	3,472	280	3,752	0
R5	Pells Lake	11,929	0	0	11,929
R 6	The Pells	100,639	0	0	100,639
R 7	Commemorations Fund	11,528	2,000	5,500	8,028
R 8	Environment Enhancement Fund	25,355	1,000	6,985	19,370
R9	Town Clocks	2,400	300	2,700	0
R10	Malling Community Centre	262,800	51,000	14,000	299,800
R11	Placeholder for future projects	0	0	0	0
R12	Neighbourhood road-salt bin grants fund	2,583	0	0	2,583
R13	Election costs reserve	0	6,500	6,500	0
R14	Devolution process	42,455	0	42,455	0
R14	Devolution process (tranche 2 Prov'n)	38,200	33,000	4,600	66,600
R15	ICT Replacement	5,750	750		6,500
R16	Renewable Energy	0	20,000	0	20,000
Proj	ects committed or in progress				
P 1	'Our Pictures' Project	7,250	3,000	10,250	0
P2	Historic plaques programme (with FoL)	150	300	0	450
P3	Magic Circle (with FoL)	7,000	15,000	1,000	21,000
P4	New Website	0	10,000	5,760	4,240
P5	Neighbourhood Plan	7,401	5,000	12,401	0
P 6	Placesholder for future projects	0	0	0	0
P 7	Bus service support	0	17,000	17,000	0
P8	Allotments improvements	4,500	0	4,500	0
P 9	Pedestrian crossings (contribn to ESCC)	27,500	25,000	0	52,500
P10	Placeholder for future projects	0	0	0	0
		598,712	243,130	203,403	638,439

Movements this year relate to:

Budgeted contributions from income to reserve funds, and use of those reserves for their defined purpose.

General Fund*

	Opening Balance	Surplus /Deficit	Closing Balance
	£	, Denen £	£
Brought Forward	134,064	(11,083)	122,981

* The "General Fund" is the amount not committed to projects or earmarked reserves, which permits day-to-day liquidity and prudent allowance for unforeseeable demands.

It is maintained at a target level roughly equal to 50% of gross annual expenditure, although may fluctuate. From 2018/19 onward Council has established a General Fund Reinstatement Reserve to address low balance. ** Accounts marked have no further purpose, and balances have been re-appropriated to the General Fund.