



**ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR
Prestatyn Town Council
Audit for the year ended 31 March 2018**

Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Prestatyn Town Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2018.

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;

- Certification of documents for audit
 - Expenditure powers - S137 power incorrectly used
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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.

Certification of documents for audit

What is the issue?

It is a requirement that the clerk and chair sign to certify that the documents provided are a true copy. From a review, it has been noted that some or all of the relevant documents do not contain a signature.

Why has this issue been raised?

The documentation for audit has not been provided in accordance with the requirements.

What do we recommend you do?

The council must ensure that both the clerk and chair sign to certify the audit documentation provided is a true record in accordance with the requirements as noted on the annual return.

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

Not applicable

Expenditure powers - S137 power incorrectly used

What is the issue?

Payments were made to one or more of the following: a local social, sports or youth club(s) which could have been authorised under S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, power to provide recreational facilities within and outside of the area.

A donation was made to the Citizens Advice Bureau which could have authorised under S142(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, power to assist voluntary organisations to provide advice and information to individuals.

A donation was made to a Festival of Walking, which could have been authorised under S144 of the Local Government Act 1972, power to provide and encourage visitors to the UK.

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: 21 December 2018
