

## Annual Governance Statements

**Name of Authority: Totnes Town Council**

Web address:

**We acknowledge, as the members of the above authority, 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 2026, that:**

We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. Yes

We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. Yes

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. Yes

We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Yes

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. Yes

We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. Yes

We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. Yes

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. Yes

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

We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review. Yes

For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation follows on the next page.

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

On this date

As recorded in minute reference

1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2026

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

Signed by Chair

Signed by Clerk

\*Published web address

## Accounting Statements

Name of Authority: Totnes Town Council

Key	Year ending 31 March 2025	Year ending 31 March 2026
Balances brought forward	£694,040	£796,310
Precept	£656,022	£688,823
Total other receipts	£119,765	£117,480
Staff Costs	£363,874	£383,238
Loan interest/capital repayments	£0	£0
All other payments	£309,643	£375,206
Balances carried forward	£796,310	£844,169
Total value of cash and short term investments	£813,158	£868,346
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	£471,490	£478,798
Total borrowings	£0	£0
Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions?		Yes

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 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:

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

Catherine Martin

28/05/2026

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

On this date

As recorded in minute reference

Signed by Chair

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Totnes Town Council

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, 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 2025/26 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. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		✓	✓
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 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")		✓	✓
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 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 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 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
<b>P. (For local councils only)</b> Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes ✓	No 	Not applicable 

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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

12/02/2026 30/04/2026 01/05/2026

Kate MacDowall INTERNAL AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

*Kate MacDowall*

Date

21/05/2026

\*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).